FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

Security/Political Developments — Representatives of warring factions in West Beirut have agreed to withdraw gunmen from the streets in order to allow the Internal Security Forces to take over security in the western sector on 26 March, assisted "when necessary" by the Army's 6th Brigade. The agreement, which was broadcast by Beirut radio, was reached "unanimously" at a meeting in the chief mufti's house attended by representatives of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), the Amal Movement, and Al-Murabitun, commanders of the Internal Security Forces and the 6th Brigade, and prominent political and religious leaders. The agreement stipulates that parties will be able to maintain existing political and social offices in West Beirut "without any armed manifestation." The chief mufti will appoint a special committee to supervise operations of Al-Murabitun's clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio, which remained off the air over the weekend.

Meanwhile, the capital was relatively calm over the weekend, according to Beirut radio, as the French contingent began to withdraw prior to its departure for France. Confirming that PSP forces were abiding by a cease-fire after capturing "all the Al-Murabitun offices in nationalist Beirut," the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio said the PSP had handed over the Al-Murabitun headquarters and radio building to the Internal Security Forces, but warned that "certain people" released by the PSP had entered the radio building and booby-trapped it. Commenting on the "treacherous" attack on his forces in a Radio Monte Carlo interview from Damascus, Al-Murabitun leader Ibrahim Qulaylat denied his organization was responsible for insecurity and kidnappings in West Beirut, terming such charges "lies and slander." Qulaylat also discounted reports that the Amal was involved in the fighting against Al-Murabitun. PSP leader Walid Junblatt said in a statement reported by Beirut radio that the PSP's decision to take "necessary" action against Al-Murabitun was made in coordination with Amal.

Junblatt refused to meet with Qulaylat while in Damascus over the weekend, Radio Monte Carlo reported, but he met with other Lebanese organizations to discuss the formation of a new opposition group to replace the National Salvation Front. Voice of Lebanon radio subsequently announced that a new "national movement" has been established under Junblatt's leadership although Amal leader Nabih Birri has "refused" to participate. In other developments in Damascus, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad discussed the Lebanese situation in a meeting with former President Sulayman Franjiyah and in a telephone conversation with President Amin al-Jumayyil, according to Damascus radio. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met separately with Sunni and Druze leaders from Lebanon to make arrangements to control security in West Beirut, the radio noted.

Islamic Jihad's Threat — The Islamic Jihad organization has sent letters to U.S., British, French, and Italian embassies, banks, and airlines in several countries threatening to "avenge" the "massacres" and "crimes" of the Multinational Force in Lebanon, Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi forces destroyed four oil tankers and cargo ships in an attack south of Khark Island on 24 March, a spokesman for the Armed Forces General Command announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. The spokesman also reiterated earlier warnings that Iraq will "strongly attack" any naval target approaching Khark or other Iranian ports within the "prohibitive zone of war operations." A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters, in remarks reported by IRNA on 25 March, referred to the "baseless" Iraqi claims as "mere lies." Such "false allegations" attempt to portray the Gulf area as "insecure" in order to disrupt shipping, the spokesman added.

In other military activity over the weekend, Iranian units shot down one Iraqi plane and one helicopter in the Khaybar operation zone on 23 March, according to a military communique carried by Tehran radio. A communique broadcast by Baghdad radio admitted the loss of one plane which crashed over Iranian positions in the operational sector east of Basra.

Meanwhile, the Algerian foreign minister has proposed a 10-point plan to end the Iranian-Iraqi war, Abu Dhabi radio announced citing the Kuwaiti paper *AL-WATAN*. Algeria has dispatched envoys to the region to hold consultations in this regard and has requested Syrian officials to persuade Iran to accept the Algerian plan.

Jordan

The dissident Palestinian group Fatah Revolutionary Council, led by Abu Nidal, claimed responsibility for a 24 March bomb explosion near the U.S. Embassy in Amman which slightly injured two people, AFP announced. The group said the attack was in response to "acts of terrorism perpetrated by the Jordanian regime against Palestinian combatants and Jordanian nationalists." The group threatened to "multiply its attacks" against Jordan and "its agents," AFP added.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives issued a statement, broadcast by Amman radio on 25 March, announcing support for King Husayn's "condemnation" of the "biased" U.S. policy which backs Israel's aggression against the Arab nation. The statement also supported an international conference to discuss the Arab-Israeli dispute in which the five permanent Security Council members would take part.

Egypt

Mubarak in Sudan — President Husni Mubarak paid a short visit to Khartoum on 25 March for private talks with President Numayri to discuss the "Libyan air raid" on Omdurman and bilateral relations, MENA and SUNA announced. Egypt stands alongside Sudan "with all its resources in any situation," Mubarak affirmed in a speech reported by MENA.

'Ali in Iraq — Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali arrived in Baghdad on 24 March for talks at the invitation of his Iraqi counterpart, MENA stated. In addition to discussing bilateral relations, the Iran-Iraq war, Lebanon, and other Arab issues, 'Ali will deliver a message from Mubarak to the Iraqi president, MENA added. The foreign minister, in statements reported by Baghdad radio, reaffirmed Egypt's support for Iraq in its war with Iran, describing this as a "cornerstone of the strong relations" between the two countries. Iraqi ideas for a "reconciliatory formula" which would restore Egypt to the Arab League without disrupting its international or Arab commitments were also discussed in various meetings between 'Ali, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, and Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Syria

All rumors regarding a deterioration in President Hafiz al-Asad's health are "lies and fabrications," a Republican Palace spokesman asserted in comments reported by Radio Monte Carlo. The president's health is "very good" and he is performing his daily duties "as usual," the spokesman added. The president received a delegation from *TIME* magazine on 23 March, Damascus radio noted.

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Foreign Ministers Invited To Arab League Session

LD240828 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Chedli Klibi, general secretary of the Arab League, has addressed an invitation to the Arab foreign ministers to attend the 81st regular session of the League Council to be held this coming Thursday in Tunis for 3 days. Arab League sources stated that Klibi emphasized through the contacts he recently had with the foreign ministers the necessity to take part in this session in view of the importance of the topics on its agenda and in order to be able to set up the remaining committees to study the topics presented on the agenda of the forthcoming Arab summit conference.

The sources explained that agreement was reached, following the postponment of the summit conference, to set up five ministerial committees: the charter committee and the Iraqi-Iranian war committee, which have already been set up; the Arab-Israeli conflict committee, the Arab relations with interantional groupings committee, and the joint Arab action committee.

Source Cited on Personnel Changes in Fatah

LD241507 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1344 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis, 24 Mar (KUNA) — The Fatah Central Committee meeting scheduled to be held here this evening has been postponed because most members of the committee are abroad. At present, Fatah Central Committee members Yasir 'Arafat, Hani al-Hasan, Muhammad Gunaym, Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, Salah Khalaf, and Khalif al-Wazir are in Tunisia.

An informed Palestinian source told KUNA that during its upcoming meeting the Central Committee will reconsider the present responsibilities of its members. This source, who asked that his name not be disclosed, explained that during this meeting posts will be switched among members of the committee. Rafiq an-Natshah will become responsible for mobilization and organization in the movement in place of Muhammad Gunaym, who will take control of financial affairs.

The source refused to give other details about anticipated changes within the Central Committee. However, he expressed his belief that the committee will hold a meeting next week attended by all its members.

Yasir 'Arafat Meets Various Officials in Tunis

Italian Envoy, Jesse Jackson Aide

JN241744 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received the Italian ambassador in Tunis yesterday. Our radio correspondent said that the talks dealt with recent developments in the Arab and international arenas, particularly the Palestinian question. The correspondent added that brother leader Abu 'Ammar asked the Italian ambassador to convey a message to the Italian Government in which he expresses his appreciation for Italy's support for the Palestinian people and their just cause.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar also received in Tunis yesterday Robert Brown, adviser to the Reverend Jesse Jackson, a Democratic candidate in the upcoming U.S. presidential election. Brown reiterated to brother leader Abu 'Ammar the solidarity of the Reverend Jesse Jackson, his loyalists, and all U.S. blacks with the Palestinian people's question and the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Our correspondent has learned that during the meeting, brother leader Abu 'Ammar presented a detailed explanation of the developments in the Arab and Palestinian arenas.

Greek Ambassador

LD241527 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis 24 Mar (TAP) — Yasir 'Arafat, Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, last night had talks with the Greek ambassador to Tunis. It has been learned from press sources that 'Arafat acquainted the Greek ambassador with the latest developments in the Middle East and in the Lebanese arena. It was learned from the same sources that the Palestinian leader stressed the PLO's permanent concern to reinforce Palestinian-Greek relations and strengthen the bonds of friendship for the well-being of the two peoples and to serve the causes of justice, liberation, and peace in the world.

The Greek diplomat once again reiterated the stance of his country, government, and people in all international gatherings on the side of the just struggle being waged by the Palestinian people under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, headed by Yasir 'Arafat, to regain their rights to return to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state.

'Arafat gave the ambassador a message of appreciation to the Greek Government for its supportive and unrestricted stances for the struggle of the Palestinian people.

The talks were held in the presence of Hani al-Hasan, member of the Fatah Central Committee, and Hakam Bal'awi, the PLO's representative in Tunis.

SFRY's Dragosavac

LD252325 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat met in Tunis this evening with Dusan Dragosavac, member of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, for 2 hours during which they reviewed major political developments in the Palestinian issue. On this occasion, Mr Dragosavac headed the Palestinian leader an official invitation to visit Yugoslavia, which consistently supports the struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO.

'Arafat Urges Postponement of Cairo Meeting

NC251716 Cairo MENA in English 1646 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) — Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat asked Ahmad Hamrush, secretary general of the Egyptian Committee of the Afro-Asian Solidarity, to convey a message to members of the Egyptian committee calling for the postponement of the Cairo conference in support of the Palestinian people from March 30 to May 15, MENA learnt. 'Arafat expressed regret over being unable to join the conference in its due time due to some commitments and particularly meetings of the Central Committee of the Fatah Movement and the dialogue meetings between Fatah and the Popular Front and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. These meetings will be a preparation for the coming Palestinian National Council due to be held in Algeria in the second half of April.

Hawatimah Raps 'Arafat's Moves, Praises Syria

JN241516 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1350 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 24 Mar (SANA) — Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has asserted that armed and political struggle based on the PLO's Program and the Algiers [PNC] session is the only way to liberate Palestine and secure the return. In a speechh he delivered in the Al-Yarmuk camp in Damascus on the occasion of honoring the martyrs' families, Hawatimah said that 'Arafat's policy, especially his recent moves, represents a bloody blow to the martyrs' souls and disservice to the families of the martyrs and strugglers. He added that this policy will also lead to a national and pan-Arab disaster and represents a departure from the resolutions of the national consensus in Algiers.

Hawatimah also stressed the need to foil 'Arafat's trend and strengthen the alliance with Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces, asserting that this alliance, backed by the socialist countries, is the only way for the Palestinian revolution to liberate the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, secure the Palestinian people's right to return, determine their destiny, and establish their own independent state on their national soil.

PLO Official Meets Yugoslav Ambassador

GF231707 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] During a meeting yesterday, Brother Abu Ja'far, director of the PLO Political Department, reviewed with the Yugoslav ambassador in Tunis developments in the region as well as developments in the Palestinian region. They also discussed the preparatory meeting of the Mediterranean Nonaligned Movement countries which will be held in Malta on [date indistinct] March.

Joint Resistance Operation in Lebanon Reported

JN231647 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1610 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] A group of Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men attacked a Zionist occupation military position near Ba'lul in eastern Lebanon. The attack, which was carried out with machine guns, resulted in several casualties among the Zionist soldiers. A Zionist military spokesman admitted the attack but, as usual, did not disclose the enormity of the Israeli losses. The spokesman said that Israeli forces immediately carried out an intensified search campaign for the attackers, but their attempts were in vain.

BAHRAIN

U.S. Envoy Rumsfeld Pays Brief Visit

GF250514 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 25 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] American presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld arrived in Bahrain from North Yemen last night for a one-day visit as part of his present Middle East tour.

He was received at the airport by 'Abd al-'Aziz Bu 'Ali, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry, and Donald Leidel, U.S. ambassador to Bahrain.

Amir Receives Reagan Message

GF251155 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Manama, 25 Mar (WAKH) — The amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, received here this morning Donald Rumsfeld, the U.S. President's envoy to the Middle East, who is currently visiting Manama within the framework of his tour to a number of the region's states.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign affairs minister; and Donald Leidel, U.S. ambassador to Bahrain.

WAKH has learned that U.S. envoy Rumsfeld delivered to the amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, a message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan on the developments in the situation in the Middle East. During the meeting, the current situation in the region from all sides, in addition to the current Arab and international issues, were discussed.

This visit is being made to acquaint the United States with the views of the leaders of the region's states on various current Arab issues.

Rumsfeld Departs for Qatar

GF251410 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1301 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 25 Mar (WAKH) — Donald Rumsfeld, the U.S. President's special envoy to the Middle East, left Manama for Doha this afternoon after a 1-day visit to Bahrain.

Heir Apparent Leaves for Qatar Visit

GF260741 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Manama, 26 Mar (WAKH) — Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, left Manama for Doha this morning on a visit to the State of Qatar at the invitation of Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister.

He was seen off at the airport by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Mr Ahmad Yusuf ash-Shirawi, minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for Cabinet affairs; and a number of senior civilian and military officials.

PDRY

PFLP's Habash, DFLP's Hawatimah Arrive in Aden

GF231723 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] A high-level Palestinian delegation led by Brother George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], arrived in Aden this afternoon. During this visit, the delegation will hold talks with government and party officials on the developments in the Palestinian issue as well as the developments in the Arab arena.

The delegation was received by 'Abd al-Gani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, and Brother Mahmud an-Najashi, member of the Central Committee and deputy secretary of the YSP Central Committee.

YSP Chairman Receives Visitors

GF241558 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers today received the delegations taking part in the Aden Palestinian meeting, which is being held under the leadership of Brother Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Brother George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Brother Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front; and Sulaym an-Najjab, the assistant secretary general of the Palestinian Communist Party. The audience took place in presence of the Syrian communist delegation and the Lebanese Communist Party.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad welcomed those taking part in the meeting. He pointed out that the Aden meeting is designed to preserve the unity of the PLO in accordance with the resolutions of the 16th session of the PNC, which convened in Algiers. He asserted the importance of preserving this unity by basing that on hostility to imperialism, to Zionism and to the capitulatory plans, in addition to making the strategic alliance profound and ensuring solidarity among Syria, the PLO, the Lebanese National Movement and all the factions of the Arab liberation movements.

He noted that the imperialist and Zionist circles are not satisfied with imposing their policy and coerciveness on the Arabs through capitulatory solutions; they also want to fragment the PLO through aborting the struggle of the Palestinian people's struggle,

liquidating their struggle and attempting to undermine the gains they have made.

In this context, he accentuated that the formation of the PLO, in addition to reinforcing its influence and prestige, constituted a national gain for the Palestinian people, and that preservation of that is regarded a national duty which is to be shouldered by everybody. He then reaffirmed that the PDRY will continue to support the struggle of the Palestinian people and that it will confront the capitulatory plans and the attempts designed to fragment the PLO, or to create doubts about its sole representation of the Palestinian people.

Official Receives PFLP Leader

GF251426 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Brother Staff Brigadier General 'Ali Muhammad Nasir 'Antar, member of the YSP Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, received in his office this morning Brother Dr George Habash, PFLP secretary general.

The struggle relations between the YSP and the PFLP were discussed. The situation in the Palestinian arena in particular, and the Arab region in general, was reviewed during the meeting. The dangers which the Palestinian revolution is facing due to the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots and conspiracies against the unity of the Palestinian revolution with the aim of implementing submissive plans were also reviewed.

Algerian Envoy, Delegation Depart After Talks

President Receives Visitor, Message

LD241206 Algiers APS in English 1021 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Aden 24/03/84 (APS) — President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen received on Thursday M. Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, supply member of the [FLN] Politburo, responsible for the Permanent Secretariat, who gave him a message from President Chadli Bendjedid.

M. Messaadia and President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad examined questions of common interest and developments in the situation on the Arab and international scene, mainly in the Middle East and on the Palestinian and Lebanese fronts.

Envoy, Delegation Depart

GF241542 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat of the FLN, and the delegation accompanying him, left Aden this morning after a visit to our country that lasted several days. During the visit, he conveyed a message to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, from his brother Chadli Bendjedid, president of Algeria and FLN secretary general.

Joint Committee Meets To Discuss Foreign Policy

GF241334 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The first round of talks of the joint committee of the foreign policy of the two sides of the homeland began today at the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The committee is led by Brothers Muhammad 'Ali 'Imayah, deputy foreign affairs minister in the southern part of the homeland, and Ahmad Muhammad al-Iryani, Foreign Affairs Ministry under secretary in the northern part of the homeland.

QATAR

U.S. Envoy Rumsfeld Pays 2-Day Visit

GF251522 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Doha, 25 Mar (WAKH) — Donald Rumsfeld, special Middle East envoy of the U.S. President, arrived in Doha today on a 2-day visit to the State of Qatar.

He was received on arrival by Ambassador Ahmad Jasim al-Mulla, director of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry, and Charles Franklin Dunbar, U.S. ambassador in Doha.

Amir Receives Rumsfeld

GF251820 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani received in his office at the Ad-Dawhah Palace today Donald Rumsfeld, special envoy of the U.S. President to the Middle East.

The audience was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister; 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwwari, minister of information; and Charles Dunbar, U.S. ambassador in Doha. During the audience, they made a general review of the current Arab developments, the situation in the Gulf region and bilateral relations.

QNA has learned that his highness the amir informed the U.S. envoy of Qatar's firm and principled stand on the Palestinian cause, and the need to find a just and durable peace to it. He said it is the crux of the Middle East issue, with the need to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and establish their independent state.

QNA has also learned that during the audience the amir also affirmed Qatar's opposition to and denunciation of the attempt to shift the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. On the Iraq-Iran dispute, his highness the amir informed Rumsfeld of the need for participation by the United States and other UN

Security Council permanent members with all their efforts and energies to end this war, which threatens the region's security and peace with the most serious danger, apart from the threat it constitutes to the world's peace, safety and economy.

Rumsfeld Leaves for Kuwait

GF260720 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Doha, 27 Mar (WAKH) — Donald Rumsfeld, special envoy of the U.S. President to the Middle East, left Doha this morning for Kuwait following a 2-day visit to the State of Qatar as part of his tour of a number of the region's states.

SAUDI ARABIA

'Zionist' Pressure for U.S. Embassy Move Noted

PM231615 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Mar 84 p 1

['Abd ar-Rahman al-Ansari report: "Jerusalem's Arabism in Danger"]

[Excerpt] Riyadh — *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* learned yesterday that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has intensified its efforts and Arab and international contacts to save Jerusalem, protect its Arabism and face the dangers threatening it as a result of the fierce, growing Zionist campaign. *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* has also learned that the question of Holy Jerusalem has been placed at the top of the list of priorities by the Saudi leadership headed by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, who is giving the matter his special attention.

It is known that, as the date of the U.S. presidential election draws nearer, the Zionists are seizing the opportunity and are urging Washington to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem. The Zionist lobby, exploiting the election campaign, has been making concerted efforts to have this issue brought before Congress. It has been learned that Saudi Arabia has strongly warned against any such move, and has emphasized that it would not remain idle in the face of any transfer of any diplomatic mission from Tel Aviv to a Jerusalem under Israeli occupation.

UAE

Algerian Envoy Arrives for 2-Day Visit

GF251816 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1725 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 25 Mar (WAM) — Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat of the Algerian National Liberation Front, arrived in the country from San'a' this afternoon on a 2-day visit to the UAE.

On arrival at Ash-Shariqah International Airport the Algerian official said that he is carrying a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. He said that during his vist he will discuss with a number of officials in the country bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern, and that he will [words indistinct] which were crystalized by His Highness Shaykh Zayid and his brother President Chadli Bendjedid.

Regarding the role being played by Algeria in tackling the Arab issues, he said that his country believes that the Arab nation has a common destiny and that on the basis of this fact, the Arab peoples should cooperate. He said that Arab cooperation can only be achieved by creating an atmosphere of confidence and honesty that is based on respect for the sovereignty and independence of each Arab country. He affirmed that the Palestinian issue is a fateful issue for his country, which stands alongside the Palestinian people and respects their aspirations and will.

He was received by Foreign Ministry adviser Ahmad Khalfan as-Suwaydi, a number of officials at the Foreign Ministry and Algerian Ambassador al-Hashimi al-Qadduri.

Gulf Women's Conference Opens in Abu Dhabi

GF250646 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, Mar 24 (WAKH) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan today inaugurated the third regional conference on women in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula with a call for a more active role for women in the society.

In a speech, read on his behalf by 'Abdallah al-Mazru'i, minister of justice and acting minister of labor and social affairs, the president said that since the UAE federation was established in 1971, women have been given equal rights to education, in order to play an active role in the society. He noted that the Islamic shari'a — on which the country's constitution was based — has honored women, secured their rights and opened up new horizons for them that suited their nature and message in life.

The president was received at the cultural complex where the conference is being held by Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi, the president's representative, and other top government officials, as well as by Mrs. Rawda 'Abdallah al-Mutawwa, head of the UAE delegation to the conference. It is also being attended by delegates from the Gulf as well as from Jordan, Tunis, Morocco, Libya, Algeria, Somalia, Egypt, Mauritania, Sudan and other international women's associations, scholars and professors.

YAR

U.S. Mideast Envoy Rumsfeld Visits for Talks

President Receives Visitor

GF241855 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at 1800 at the presidential palace Mr Ronald Rumsfeld, U.S. President Ronald Reagan's special Middle East envoy.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations. SABA' learned that they also discussed the U.S. position toward the Arab issues, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue and the Iraqi-Iranian war. The brother leader and the secretary general of the General People's Congress expounded to the U.S. envoy on the principled and consistent position of our country toward these issues. He emphasized the need for the United States to play a positive role in order to nail down a just solution to the Palestinian issue and participate in the efforts being undertaken to end the Iraqi-Iranian war.

The brother leader expressed our country's concern for the attempts being made to transfer the U.S. embassy to the Zionist entity to the Arab occupied city of Jerusalem, noting the effect of that on the relationships of the Islamic countries with the United States.

Rumsfeld Makes Statement, Departs

GF250510 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Donald Rumsfeld, special envoy of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, left San'a' this evening after a short visit to our country.

He made a statement to SABA' in which he said: My visit to the YAR was fruitful and successful. The outcome of the talks which I held with His Excellency Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was good and fruitful, and it will bolster relations between our two friendly countries. Rumsfeld also expressed his thanks to Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih for his understanding, which facilitated his mission and ensured its success.

He was seen off by Dr Husayn 'Amr, director of the prime minister's office, the U.S. Ambassador in San'a', and a representative from the Protocol Department.

Algerian President's Envoy Visits for Talks

GF241440 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1315 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] San'a', 24 Mar (WAKH) — Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, envoy of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, member of the Political Bureau and official of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, arrived in San'a' today on a visit to the YAR.

During the visit, the Algerian envoy will convey a message to YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from the Algerian president dealing with the means of developing relations between the two countries and the current situation in the Arab arena.

It is to be noted that the Algerian envoy is making a tour of a number of the region's states — that has included the PDRY — as part of a plan by President Bendjedid to have several envoys to tour a number of Arab countries.

Visitor Meets With Salih

GF241820 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at the presidential house at 1500 today Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat of the Algerian National Liberation Front, who arrived in San'a' today.

During the meeting, [the Algerian envoy] conveyed a message to the brother leader president and secretary general from his brother, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. During the meeting, they also discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and exchanged views on the means of consolidating cooperation between the General People's Congress and the Algerian National Liberation Front Party, and on exchange of delegations and visits between the two sides. They also discussed the situation in the Arab arena, especially the Palestinian issue and international issues of mutual concern. Their views were identical. They also discussed developments in the Iraq-Iran war, and its dangerous consequences for the two neighboring Muslim peoples. In this regard, they stressed the necessity of working to stop the bloodshed and to maintain the capabilities of the two peoples.

The meeting was attended on the YAR side by Dr Hasan Maki, adviser to the president and member of the Standing Committee; Dr Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi, minister of foreign affairs and secretary of the Standing Committee; and 'Ali Muhammad al-Anisi, director of the presidential office; and on the Algerian side by Al-Arabi az-Zubayri and [name indistinct], members of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat; Salih Suri, director of the office of the officials of the Permanent Secretariat; and Mohamed Sabbagh, Algerian ambassador in San'a'.

Algerian Envoy Departs

GF251420 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] San'a', 25 Mar (WAKH) — Algerian envoy Mohamed Cherif Messaadia left San'a' today after a visit to the YAR, during which he conveyed a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

The YAR president also gave the Algerian envoy a message for Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, which reportedly deals with bilateral relations and a number of Arab issues, primarily the Palestinian issue and the Iraq-Iran war.

President Mubarak Returns From Sudan 25 Mar
NC251427 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1414 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this afternoon returned to Egypt following a short visit to Khartoum. President Mubarak made a speech during his brief visit to Khartoum at the opening of the Sudanese Socialist Union Central Command's session. President Mubarak also met with Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri.

'Ali Leaves for Baghdad With Mubarak Message
NC241339 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today left Cairo for Baghdad on a 2-day visit to Iraq at the invitation of Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister and foreign minister. During the visit, 'Ali will deliver a message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn dealing with the latest developments in the Middle East, with particular emphasis on the efforts to terminate the Iraq-Iran war.

'Ali will also hold talks with Tariq 'Aziz on bilateral relations, the Lebanese problem, the Palestinian problem, and the Iraq-Iran war.

'Ali Interview in Rome Daily Cited
AU241547 Rome ANSA in English 1543 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, March 24 — Egypt is returning to the Arab world with its head high and without having accepted any conditions, Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali stressed in an interview published in a Rome daily today.

The Cairo government official described Egypt's handling of the decision by the Islamic Conference to re-admit his country into its ranks as follows: "The key point of our policy was that there was to be no condition of any sort laid on our re-entry, and that principle was accepted".

According to the Egyptian diplomatic chief, the decision by the Islamic Conference in Casablanca in December was the effect of the Arab world's "silent majority". "And we are glad that finally a good part of the Arab world made a show of realism with regard to the situation in the Middle East", he added.

Hasan 'Ali criticized the role played by Washington in the current phase of the Middle East ordeal. "We witnessed a major effort on the part of the American Administration to settle the Palestinian problem.... Unfortunately, and for a variety of reasons, these efforts brought no results".

He said Washington's failure was due to a combination of "conceptual errors and poor information" which, together, forced American diplomacy to back down in the Middle East. These "diplomatic retreats" culminated with the withdrawal of the Marines from Lebanon, Hasan 'Ali added.

Hasan 'Ali said he thought it will take some time before Washington manages to draft a new Middle Eastern policy. "All will depend on the Lebanese factions, Israel's willingness to withdraw (from Lebanon), and on Syria's withdrawal," factors which, the Egyptian official noted, will necessary take time.

Whether the European Community can do anything to break the stalemate in the Middle East will depend, the Egyptian foreign minister said, on its ability to influence the United States and Israel.

"The main aspect of the crisis depends on the flexibility, or inflexibility, of the United States in its ability to affect Israeli policy," he argued. "Israel will have to put an end to the settlements and all other activity on the Left Bank of the Jordan, which have become tantamount to an annexation".

The second point, with regard to the European Community, Hasan 'Ali added, is the need to provide "solid support" for the Palestine Liberation Organization and to promote its development along moderate positions. In this area, he concluded, West Europe has a big role to play.

Ghali Returns From African Tour 25 March
NC252031 Cairo MENA in English 2027 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 25 (MENA) — State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali returned here tonight at the end of a ten-day tour which has taken him to Nigeria, Ghana, and Upper Volta to convey written messages from President Husni Mubarak to the heads of state of these countries. Upon arrival, Dr Ghali said that he carried messages from the heads of state of these countries to President Mubarak, and that he would submit to President Mubarak a detailed report on the outcome of his African tour.

JORDAN TIMES Interviews Al-Baz on Developments
JN241240 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Mar 84 p 5

[Interview with Dr Usamah Al-Baz, director of President Husni Mubarak's Political Affairs Office, by 'Afif A Kaluti, *JORDAN TIMES* reporter, in Amman on 21 March]

[Text] Question: Are there any plans for President Husni Mubarak to visit Jordan soon?

Answer: There has not been any talk about a visit by President Mubarak to Jordan at any given date, but it would be only natural for His Majesty King Husayn and for President Mubarak to visit each other in continuation of their meetings which took place in Delhi and in Washington and as a follow-up to their contacts by letters and phones.

Q: Do you think that the time has come for Egypt to return to the Arab world?

A: We believe that Egypt is already in the heart of the Arab world. We are in the middle of the Arab effort to achieve peace

and stability throughout our region to solve disputes among Arab states by amicable means and to defend the Arab cause everywhere. To do that, Egypt does not attach any importance to the question of its status within the Arab League because this is a secondary element and in fact we consider it a non-factor altogether.

We belive that the membership in the league does not add to one's ability to influence the course of events and that Egypt's absence from the league does not hinder in the least our ability to assume our Arab role. So the question of our membership in the league under the present circumstances is a matter of form rather than substance. We do not believe that the league is the only vehicle through which an Arab state can shoulder it responsibility and conduct its policy with the view to safeguarding Arab rights and promoting Arab interests.

Q: How does Egypt think it can help in ending the Iran-Iraq war?

A: The continuation of this war, let alone its escalation,is most dangerous to all countries in the Middle East and in fact to all nations of the world, and therefore, we take it upon ourselves to do everything we can to help end that war.

The core of the dispute now emanates from Iran's refusal of Iraq's willingness to end the war unconditionally and to solve all outstanding issues by negotiations. So we believe that all the countries, specially the super powers and the other countries that wield special influence globally, are under an obligation to help end the fighting as follows:

First, by bringing pressure on the belligerents in order to sit down and negotiate their differences.

Secondly, by refraining from supplying both belligerents with weapons and war material as well as urging other countries to observe a strict moratorium on the supply of arms to both parties.

Thirdly, by a helping devise, a formula or several formulas that could lead both countries to the negotiating table.

In our contacts with various countries, we make it crystal clear that the fighting and its impact are not confined to Iran and Iraq; rather, it has serious repercussions throughout the region and it endangers the security and the stability of the entire Middle East. We urge all the countries we contact to take certain steps which could contribute in our view to the process of terminating the war and paving the road for peace.

Egypt has no animosity towards the people of Iran and we do not believe that there is any basic contradiction in the interest of Iraq and in the interest of any Arab people including the Iraqis.

There is a commonality of interests that centres around maintaining peace and tranquillity, preventing outside intervention and directing our resources to the urgently needed task of developing our society, socially, economically and culturally.

So, Egypt's position vis-a-vis this war is not one of taking the side of Iraq, but one of promoting peace between Iran and Iraq. Nevertheless, Egypt cannot disregard the fact that one of the parties to the conflict is on record accepting a peaceful settlement while the other party is insisting on continuing and escalating the war as well as on introducting conditions which cannot possibly be met.

In other words, Egypt perceives of its mission in this junction in terms of dissuading Iran from continuing the bloodshed and persuading it to accept a negotiated settlement. In our view, the only way to achieve this target is to prove to Iran that it cannot possibly win the war and that it cannot prevail over Iraq because Iraq is not alone and the Iraqi people have demonstrated repeatedly that they are solidly behind their leadership and that they are willing to continue to defend their land and dignity regardless of the sacrifice they are asked to make.

Q: Regarding the latest air raid on Omdurman, Sudan, what do you think is behind the escalation of tensions on the Sudanese-Libyan border? What makes you sure that Libya was behind this escalation and who would benefit from such an escalation?

A: I do not think that one could analyse the situation there through a logical and rational interpretation that would focus on deciding the beneficiaries because the unfortunate fact remains that much of what is happening in our region is both irrational and illogical; it defies our comprehension to say why Libya is determined to maintain a relationship of tension with all its neighbours.

In our view, that does not serve the interest of any Arab state, neither the peoples' nor the rulers' interests. However, it is a fact that the relationship between Libya and all its neighbours is marred by tension and distrust. We are reluctant to accept the conspiratorial interpretation of history and of political phenomena.

For that reason, we do not like to jump to conclusions that a certain power in the East or in the West stands behind a certain aspect of Libyan policy. The irritable fact is that Libya seems to believe that it could play a prominent part in the Arab world and North Africa through destabilising the neighbouring countries and intimidating other countries as well. That has prompted the Libyan regime to engage in policies designed to undermine governments that do not ally themselves with Libya and its policy.

The Libyan leadership is insistently seeking to force other Arab countries, especially neighbouring ones, to enter into immediate unity with it whether this unity can come as a natural result, a culmination of concerted effort, and a constant line of policy or not. In other words, the Libyan policy toward its Arab and African neighbours seems to centre on offering them a rigid option between total unity and extreme hostility. This has not worked in the past, and experience has shown that for Arab unity to continue and flourish, it has to be based on solid ground and has to take place gradually and in response to a genuine feeling among the masses of both parties to the unity.

In case of the relationship between Sudan and Libya, which is not basically different from Libyan relationship with Tunisia or Egypt, it is clear that Libya insists on imposing its will on Sudan

and dictating to them the line of policy they should pursue domestically and externally.

Libya engaged itself into several activities designed to undermine the Sudanese Government. The latest attack on civilian targets on Omdurman, is but one example which was perhaps more dramatic than previous attempts. So our interpretation, our view of Libya's policy vis-a-vis its neighbours, and our own fact-finding task, lead us to believe that this operation was a Libyan one from A to Z and did not have any Sudanese dimension. The purpose of that operation was probably to start a movement that would result in toppling the government which not viewed by Tripoli with favour.

Perhaps it was based on miscalculations which in turn emanated from the wrong assumption that there would be an uprising in Sudan with the first signal.

However, that proved wrong totally because if anything, that operation backfired on its perpetuators. The operation resulted in solidifying the Sudanese front behind the leadership of President Numayri which is very natural.

Any people would draw closer together in the face of any danger from outside or any threat from abroad and that was precisely what took place in Sudan in the past few days.

On the one hand, it would result in enhancing the Sudanese defence capabilities and that is what is taking place at present, and on the other hand, Egypt has made it abundantly clear to Libya that it will not tolerate any further aggression on Sudan. We made this clear to Libya directly and through third parties.

Q: You met the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Khartoum recently. Are there any new developments in the Egypt-PLO relations?

A: Our contacts with the Leadership of the PLO focus on coordinating our efforts in order to mobilise our joint resources in the direction that would lead to the attainment of our goals. Our goal is to achieve a just and durable settlement, a settlement that would recognise the right of the Palestinian people to self determination and allow all states in the region to live in peace and security.

We discuss with the PLO, as we do with other Arab parties, ways and means for promoting our cause as well as the policies pursued by other nations and accordingly co-ordinate our response.

Q: Do you think that there are any prospects for an American peace effort in the Middle East during the current election year?

A: We realise the fact that it is very unlikely that Americans would take any position that could contribute significantly to the achievement of peace in an election year. Recent history has taught us that an election year in the United States means either a standstill and paralysis or an auctioneering or feverish competition among the presidential candidates to gain favour with Israel and its staunch supporters in the U.S. regardless of the U.S. interest and the interest of world peace.

Q: Reagan plan of September, 1982 was not initiated in an election year, what is your comment? [question as published]

A: The fact that one does not expect any substantial movement in an election year, does not mean that we should sit back and do nothing because it remains our obligation to mobilise all our sources and energy to serve our cause.

The United States as a world power and a close friend and ally to Israel bears a special responsibility toward all the people of the Middle East. It is a global power with certain tangible interest in the region, a fact that saddles the U.S. with an added responsibility. Thus, we we have to keep urging the U.S. to move and we have to prevent the worsening of the American position as a result of this auctioneering and the erosion in the American position. That entails the maintenance of dialogue and contact with the U.S. it also requires us to be frank and at times to be blunt with the United States. The U.S. has repeatedly declared that it stood by the Reagan initiative of Sept 1. If this is the case, it requires a certain line of policy on the part of the United States. It is not a matter of verbal exercise or an empty announcement, but rather one of adopting an active line of policy.

If the U.S. is serious in declaring its commitment to the Reagan formula. It should demonstrate this commitment by exerting maximum influence on Israel. America should persuade Israel to stop all its settlement activities, especially in the light of the fact that it has already expropriated almost 50 percent of the land in the occupied Arab territories, illegally and converted it to Israeli settlements.

The Reagan plan is not dead, it is still there, but it is being put on the shelf because of the inaction on the part of the American Government and the lack of response on the part of Israel. We should again test the American willingness and readiness to implement it and to promote it, at least.

Q: What about the U.S. test in Lebanon, which failed to solve an issue much simpler than the Palestinian one?

A: The U.S. was obviously unable to deliver in Lebanon, and the policy that was adopted there proved to be inconsistent. It also was below the level that one would expect from a country that volunteers to bear the responsibility, the country that was given the responsibility and the opportunity by all the parties concerned to help solve the outstanding problems.

What happened is that the U.S. policy in Lebanon failed the expectation of almost everybody. However, that should not lead us to conclude that the U.S. cannot be called upon to play any role in Palestine because this will be self-defeating; that would defeat our purpose. Abandoning U.S. would not only neutralise U.S. totally, but it would lead to a further alignment between the Israeli position and the American one. It is a fact of life that our responsibility is to win over the support of all major powers to our goal because our goal is a legitimate and a just one which is the establishment of a comprehensive and durable peace in the region.

Q: Don't you think that the inclusion of the Soviet Union in any peace efforts to be made is necessary?

A: No one can exclude the Soviet Union from the peace efforts. The Soviets have a role to play and a responsibility to assume, they are a super power.

Q: How do you think it could play its role in bringing peace to the Middle East?

A: The Soviet Union could play a constructive role by adopting a certain line of policy which promotes the goal of reaching a just and comprehensive settlement. The Soviets should be given credit for supporting the Arab position basically since the early fifties and the have remained supportive of that position.

However, what is needed now is the adoption of certain practical steps that would bring the parties closer to a negotiated settlement. actually stating a position is different than translating this postion into reality and contribute positively to the cause of achieving a settlement,

A country that is not directly involved or which does not assume a special responsibility can take a position for the record, and that is it. That would suffice from a country which does not have a weight of a super power, but from a super power one would expect a certain priority to be given to the problem. The Soviet Union, through its contacts with the other super power, should give a certain priority to the Middle East and should make clear to the U.S. that peace in the Middle East is high on the agenda and it is as important as the question of disarmament and non-proliferation of arms.

In other words, the Soviet Union could assume a constructive role by entering into serious discussions on the Middle Eastern issue.

AS-SIYASAH Interviews Al-Baz on Arab Contacts

NC231627 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Mar (MENA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian foreign ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has said that both Egypt and Jordan have a role in preparing the appropriate conditions to achieve a near Arab unanimity, which would achieve the basic principles for Arab strategic security.

In an interview published by the Kuwaiti newspaper *AS-SIYASAH* today, Dr al-Baz denied that King Husayn's recent statements on U.S. policy in the area have come within the framework of the coordination between Egypt and Jordan.

Dr al-Baz affirmed that Egypt calls on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities and that Egypt does not want polarization in the region in favor of any state, but rather wants every state to shoulder its responsibilities.

In reply to a question about Egyptian-Syrian relations, Dr al-Baz denied there were contacts between the two countries. However, he said: We have not forgotten that Syria was a partner in the October 1973 war.

Asked about the air raid on Omdurman last Friday, Dr al-Baz said that in the past Egypt had informed the Libyan leadership that it does not accept any violation of the security of any neighboring Arab state, and that this applies to Tunisia just as it applies to Sudan.

He pointed out that the Egyptian political leadership had been eager to convey this to Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and had made it a condition for the improvement of Egyptian-Libyan relations.

Sudanese Assembly Speaker Arrives in Cairo

NC231918 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Sudanese People's Assembly Speaker 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid said after his arrival in Cairo today that he carries a message to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak from Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri. As-Sayyid noted that during his visit to Egypt he will hold talks with Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, prime minister; Dr Kamil Laylah, People's Assembly speaker; Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, Consultative Council speaker; and Field Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, the deputy prime minister and defense and war production minister. He said that the talks will deal with future moves and problems regarding the Nile valley area which (?is of interest) to the African Continent and the Arab nation.

The Sudanese People's Assembly speaker expressed his country's appreciation for the bold and firm position which Egypt — its leadership and people — has taken regarding the treacherous aggression against Omdurman.

Mubarak Receives Assembly Speaker

NC241058 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Sudanese People's Assembly Speaker 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid and the delegation accompanying him in Al-'Urubah Palace this morning. People's Assembly Speaker Dr Kamil Laylah attended the meeting. The Sudanese delegation arrived in Cairo yesterday on a 2-day visit with a message from President Ja'far Numayri for President Mubarak.

MENA Cites Assembly Speaker

NC241336 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) — Sudanese People's Assembly speaker 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid said that during hs meeting with President Mubarak today he handed Mubarak a message from President Numayri.

The Sudanese official added that he came to Cairo, accompanied by a delegation from the Nile Valley Parliament, to thank President Mubarak on behalf of the Sudanese people for the decisive decisions he made with regards to the brutal and reckless attack against Omdurman last week.

As-Sayyid also thanked Egypt's Armed Forces for their support for their brothers in Sudan.

As-Sayyid said that he came to Cairo to consult with President Husni Mubarak and People's Assembly Speaker Kamil Laylah on what should be done in both countries during this critical time.

Somali Defense Minister on Mideast, African Issues

NC250828 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) — Mohammed Ali Samantar, Somali first vice president and defense minister asserted that Egypt will return to the Arab summit from the Arab and African doors [as received] He said that Egypt's return to the ICO assumes great importance because Egypt is the pioneer of the Arab and Islamic nations.

In a statement in today's issue of *AL-AKHBAR*, Samantar commented on the current events in the Middle East. He warned of the gravity of the situation in Lebanon and said that the Lebanese problem must be left to the Lebanese themselves to solve without interference. He affirmed that the Palestinian issue is the crux of the conflict in the Middle East. He said that had this issue been solved, the situation in Lebanon would not have exploded. He added that the Palestinian issue is passing through a serious, critical and decisive stage.

Referring to the Gulf war, Samantar expressed his hope that the Arabs will apply pressure on both combatants, particularly Iran, to stop the war, because Iraq, as is well known, agrees to end the war. He said that Iran cannot close the Strait of Hormuz, because Europe and the United States will not allow it.

Speaking about his country's relations with Ethiopia, Samantar said that the situation in the Horn of Africa is getting more tense. He said that skirmishes and aggressive attacks are continuing. He referred to the recent Ethiopian air raid on the Somali town of Balumbale.

GDR Minister Arrives in Cairo for Talks

NC241639 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1553 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 24 Mar (MENA) — Mr Felix Meier, GDR minister of electrical engineering and electronics, arrived in Cairo this afternoon from East Berlin at the head of a delegation on a 5-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, who was at the airport to welcome the GDR minister.

The German minister will hold talks to strengthen relations between the two countries and to develop cooperation in electricity projects.

South Korean Minister Departs After 4-Day Visit

NC231155 Cairo MENA in English 1130 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 23 (MENA) South Korean Minister of Commerce and Industry Kim chin-Ho and his accompanying delegation left here today at the end of a 4-day visit to Egypt.

In a pre-departure statement, the Korean minister said he conferred with Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, and Mustafa as-Sa'id, minister of economy and foreign trade on international issues of joint interest and primarily on the situation in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

UK, French, Italian Embassies Threatened

NC231558 Paris AFP in English 1544 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, March 23 (AFP) — The embassies of Britain, France, and Italy have received a letter purportedly from the Islamic Jihad group threatening reprisals for their alleged "criminal activities" in the Middle East, reliable sources said here today.

The letter, written in English and bearing a Cairo postmark, suggested the embassies risked the same fate as in Kuwait, where U.S. and French installations were among the targets of six car bombs, and in Beirut, where over 300 people were killed in a double suicide truck-bombing of U.S. and French facilities.

(In Jakarta, the British, French, and Italian Embassies also received letters signed by Islamic Jihad and threatening the lives of their nationals. Reliable sources said a similar letter had been sent to the U.S.-based Morgan Guaranty Bank, although the U.S. Embassy had received no direct communication.)

(The four countries contributed troops to the Multinational Peace-Keeping Force in Beirut.)

Egyptian authorities have stepped up security around several diplomatic missions in recent weeks, but there have been no reports of attacks.

The letter marked the first apparent appearance in Egypt of Islamic Jihad, which operates underground in several Middle East nations. Egyptian authorities have maintained a close watch on Islamic fundamentalist groups since the assassination of President Anwar as-Sadat two-and-a-half years ago.

Source Denies U.S. Pressure in Governor Dismissal

NC232051 Cairo MENA in English 2040 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 23 — (MENA) — An official source denied today a local press report that the governor of Aswan had been dismissed because of a complaint from the American Embassy that the passengers of an airliner which had force-landed at Aswan airport had been ill-treated.

The source told the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY that the report is absolutely groundless. "The time of drawing decisions from foreign embassies if gone and will never return," he added. "The affairs of state are not run as in the old days. Egyptian decisions are national decisions expressing a free will."

The report had been printed yesterday by *AL WAFD* newspaper, organ of the New Wafd Party. It claimed that the governor of Aswan was dismissed following a complaint from the American Embassy in Cairo addressed to President Husni Mubarak. The

complaint, said the paper, claimed that the passengers of an airliner had force-landed at Aswan airport because of adverse weather conditions, and that the airport officials adopted a stringent attitude and kept the passengers, most of whom were Americans, inside the plane for more than four hours.

AL-JUMHURIYAH on 'Strategic Balance' With Israel

NC260828 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA) — The Cairo newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* urges the Arab countries to embody and strengthen a (?unified) stand on the Jerusalem issue and the Palestinian cause now that U.S. and Israeli elections have foreshadowed the peace chances. In its editorial today, the paper says that U.S. President Reagan's announcement that he rejects moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is not a sufficient guarantee to the Arabs that a time may not come when the United States will recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The paper points out that almost all the contestants for the U.S. Presidency are making promises that their victory in the elections means moving the embassy to Jerusalem [regardless] of the consequences involved.

The paper affirms that U.S. policy toward the Arabs embodies no permanent principles [thawabit]. The only permanent principle in the entire U.S. policy is its unconditional and absolute alignment to Israel against the Arabs. This requires returning the strategic balance with Israel to its natural status through Egypt's return to the Arab fold to determine the positions and decisively settle the issue by any means.

AL-AHALI Views King Husayn's Criticism of U.S.

PM242037 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 21 Mar 84 p 2

[Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad "Our Foreign Policy" column:- "Failure of Policy of Pinning Hopes on United States"]

[Text] King Husayn has always pinned his hopes on the United States for a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He did not accept the Camp David accords but showed strong enthusiasm for Reagan's plan. Nevertheless, this week he was forced to declare that the U.S. bias toward Israel has caused the United States to lose its credibility as a peace broker in the Middle East and he stressed his rejection of Reagan's policy of encouraging Jordan and the moderate Palestinians to enter into peace negotiations with Israel. King Husayn's statement was not merely "an expression of transient despair," as a State Department spokesman said. On the contrary, it was a true expression of the utter failure of the Arab policy of "moderation" which believes that the United States holds all the cards in the game.

While the Lebanese nationalist forces and the Syrian Government won a decisive victory by forcing the Lebanese Government to abandon the agreement it concluded with Israel — a victory to which the Soviet Union definitely contributed — the U.S. Administration has let down its Arab friends and King Husayn in particular who, along with the Reagan plan, became the pivot of its diplomatic efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. The United States has turned down a request by King Husayn to support a UN draft resolution condemning Israeli settlement on the West Bank and describing it as illegal. It also rejected another request by the king to exert pressure on Israel to allow the Palestinians on the West Bank to attend the coming PNC session, which is vital for bolstering Yasir 'Arafat's position vis-a-vis those who oppose him inside the PLO.

Indeed the U.S. Administration had submitted to congressional pressure to restrict the proposals of the U.S. President himself to equip a Jordanian strike force for rapid deployment. It also submitted to these pressures regarding the transfer of the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. This means a hard blow to the Jordanian throne with all that it entails for the Palestinian problem and the Arabs and Muslims in general.

In the light of these facts it was no coincidence that King Husayn's statement to the *NEW YORK TIMES* this week criticizing the United States was most pessimistic about the possibilities of peace. Nor was it a coincidence that King Husayn said that he has now realized that principles mean nothing in a country preparing for Presidential election.

There is no doubt that the astonishing victories which the young Democratic candidate, Gary Hart, has scored in a number of the states will increase Reagan's feeling that he is facing a serious challenger. The stronger the competition is, the greater his subjection to the Jewish vote and his loyalty to Israel become. He has completely abandoned his Arab friends.

King Husayn has truly realized the significance of what is happening. He said he will draw the necessary conclusions from what is happening. But he is not the only one involved; this is a lesson for all the Arab regimes that have pinned their hopes on the United States. Cairo too must draw the necessary conclusions, for it also is a target. The congressional Foreign Relations Committee has approved the 1985 Foreign Aid Bill. The bill includes blame on Egypt for being responsible for the present problems in Egyptian-Israeli relations. The bill says that the Congress feels that all the aid the United States is giving to Egypt is based on expecting the Egyptian Government to abide by and to implement the provisions of the Camp David accords and the peace treaty. The mere fact that the bill is put in this form is a blatant evidence that there are political strings attached to U.S. aid.

Despite the fact that the understanding reached at Camp David meant that the United States would seek to give Egypt and Israel almost equal aid, the aid bill provides for granting Israel aid almost one-sixth in excess of the aid granted to Egypt. In addition, almost 50 percent of the amount alloted to Israel is an outright grant. The answer to this disregard for Egypt should not be that Cairo will continue to be courteous toward the United States. Rather it should be the first to apply what *AL-AHRAM*'s chief editor demanded from the other Arab parties in his editorial last Friday as he spoke about another danger threatening the Arabs; namely the loss of Jerusalem forever — that it should react to the U.S. stand with "deeds and not just shouting, and by action rather than reaction." Will the government do so?

Armed Forces Communique No 1,413 - 23 March
JN231759 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,413 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 23 March 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. While our valiant Armed Forces defend our great Iraq against the plotters and rancorous aggressors, our banners will remain flying high and our victories will be continuous and ever-lasting. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our hero pilots today carried out with unique courage several daring combat missions and continuous raids against enemy units and troop concentrations opposite our forward units east of Basra.

They scored very effective hits killing or wounding a large number of enemy soldiers, and destroying several vehicles, excavators, and various types of weapons.

All our fighter planes returned safely to base, praise be to God, except one that crashed over enemy positions. We hold the Iranian side responsible for insuring the safety of the plane's pilot. Our aircraft today carried out 191 combat missions.

2. One of our forward units shelled with artillery enemy troops opposite our positions east of Basra and forced them to flee after killing 48 enemy troops, wounding several others, and destroying 3 infantry positions, 1 excavator, and 1 hardware stockpile.

3. Our daring helicopter gunships carried out effective raids on enemy positions and units opposite our forward units east of Basra, scoring direct and effective hits. The gunships destroyed two enemy boats and a number of troop concentrations and various types of weapons. All our helicopter gunships returned safely, thanks be to God. Our helicopter gunships today carried out 25 combat missions.

4. One of our forward units opposed an enemy force that tried to approach our forward positions in the Maysan operational sector. They pounded it with various types of weapons, and forced it to withdraw after killing or wounding a number of its soldiers.

5. One of our combat patrols carried out an attack against enemy positions opposite our forward units in the central operational sector. It destroyed two enemy infantry positions and killed or wounded their occupants.

6. Yesterday evening and today, the criminal Iranian regime shelled Basra, Mandali, and their environs with heavy artillery. The savage enemy shelling resulted in the martyrdom of 3 civilians, the injury of 2 others, the destruction of 2 houses, and damage to 10 other houses and 1 school in Basra. It also caused damage to civilian property in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 March 1984

No 1,414 - 24 March
JN241728 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,414 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 24 March 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic Armed Forces, while standing courageously and firmly against the unjust Iranian aggression, are continuing their triumphs on land, sea, and air and are inflicting on the covetous invaders massive losses. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our valiant Navy and its daring Air Force at 0300 today carried out a destructive strike at oil tankers and commercial ships south of Khark Island. Four oil tankers and cargo ships were destroyed in the attack.

Our attacking forces saw with the naked eye flames engulfing these tankers and ships. All our naval units and aircraft returned safely and triumphantly to base, praise be to God.

Thus, we are continuing our blockade around Khark Island and the Iranian ports, affirming our determination to strike at any naval target that approaches these ports, and warning the transportation companies and all the oil tankers and commercial ships against approaching these areas, which are considered to be prohibited areas of military operations.

2. A number of formations of our Army helicopter gunships today carried out effective raids against enemy positions and troop concentrations east of Basra and east of Tigris scoring accurate hits.

Our forces destroyed 4 boats carrying personnel and hardware, and a number of infantry personnel and equipment positions. All our daring helicopters returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Sighting an enemy troop concentration opposite their positions east of Basra, one of our units opened fire, inflicting on the enemy a number of casualties, and destroying two infantry positions and killing those manning them.

4. Three were killed; two personnel positions were destroyed and their crews killed in the central sector of the front.

5. One was killed and others wounded in the Maysan sector.

6. The criminal Khomeyniites last night and today used heavy artillery to shell Basra and Mandali and their environs.

The shelling injured seven civilians, destroyed a house, damaged two others, and damaged two civilian cars in Basra. The shelling also destroyed four houses in Mandali.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 March 1984

No 1,415 - 25 March
JN251717 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,415 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 25 March 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our brave Armed Forces are continuing their activities in the operational sectors against the forces of the spiteful Iranian enemy, inflicting further losses in men and equipment. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units opened artillery fire on a number of the enemy positions, troop concentrations, and vehicles opposite our positions east of Basra, killing or wounding several troops, and destroying one armored personnel carrier, one vehicle, two infantry positions, and one hardware stockpile.

2. One was killed in the central sector of the battlefield.

3. One weapons emplacement was destroyed in the east Tigris operational sector.

4. The clique of evil and crime ruling in Iran today shelled Basra, Mandali, Zurbatiyah, and their environs with heavy artillery. The enemy shelling resulted in the martyrdom of two civilians, injury to three others, and the damage to two houses and one civilian car in Basra; several civilian establishments in Mandali and Zurbatiyah were also damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 March 1984

Commander Predicts New Iranian Offensive
JN250722 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0655 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA) — The staff major general, who is commanding the east Tigris forces, has stated that the Iranian enemy will carry out a new military offensive with Basra as the target.

In an interview with *AL-JUMHURIYAH* today the staff major general added that the expected enemy offensive will be different from those in the past and will be directed against Basra for many reasons, foremost being Basra's strategic location, the proximity of the borders to the international highway that links Basra and Baghdad, and the important economic installations.

The staff major general said that the Iraqi Army which has defeated the Iranian enemy and crushed its troop concentrations will defend the soil of its homeland.

He said that any new offensive will fare no better than previous ones.

Navy Commander Reiterates Warning to World Ships
JN251700 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] The commander of the naval and coastal defense force has said that the destructive blow which our brave Navy and its bold Air Force dealt to the enemy naval targets south of Khark Island at dawn yesterday proves our ability to impose a siege on the zone.

In a statement to the Armed Forces [radio] program today, he added that the results of this surprise blow were very good as four oil tankers and cargo ships were destroyed in that area, and fire was seen gutting them. He added that the Iranian enemy should know that we practice what we preach, especially after we have repeatedly warned ships against sailing in that zone. Otherwise, these ships will be destroyed by the heroes of our Navy and our brave pilots. He said that the entire region is under the control and surveillance of our destructive means which can carry out any duty entrusted to us by the Armed Forces General Command.

He added that the Navy and its bold Air Force are determined to destroy the enemy and inflict the heaviest possible losses on its oil installations and the vessels cooperating with it. He warned the foreign companies whose vessels are dealing with the Iranian regime that extensive damage will be inflicted on them it they try to exist in that zone. He further said that our subsequent blows will be harder and stronger.

He reiterated the pledge to President Saddam Husayn that the Navy will continue to protect the Arab Gulf, impose its control over the operational zone, and inflict the heaviest possible losses on the enemy until it yields to the logic of rights and justice.

Popular Army Fighters Ready for Combat Against Iran
JN241046 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Mar (INA) — *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says that half a million fighters from the Popular Army are ready to work with the Armed Forces in the battle against the Iranian regime's aggression. In a report today on the volunteer movement in Iraq, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* notes that thousands of Iraqi and Arab citizens are rushing to volunteer and contribute in the just battle Iraq is waging to defend the homeland's borders against the Iranian invasion. *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says that a great number of Iraqi and Arab volunteers moved to the fighting fronts after completing their training in the training centers spread all over Iraq.

Reportage on Visit by Egypt's Kamal Hasan 'Ali

Arrival Statement
NC241900 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 24 Mar (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Baghdad this evening on a visit that will last until Monday. After his arrival, 'Ali held a brief round of talks with Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, during which they

reviewed bilateral issues of interest. In statements to newsmen, 'Aziz described 'Ali's visit as something natural that comes within the framework of the close brotherly relations that exist between Egypt and Iraq.

'Aziz said: We regard Mr 'Ali's current visit as extremely important, since it will enable us to continue our previous discussions and to deepen our brotherly relations.

The Iraqi foreign minister affirmed his country's admiration for the position taken by the Egyptian president, government, and people in support of Iraq in the just battle it is waging in self-defense against aggression.

In his statements in Baghdad, Kamal Hasan 'Ali reaffirmed that Egypt supports and aids Iraq in its just war to defend its territory and sovereignty and in light of its acceptance of 57 mediation efforts to end this war.

'Ali described Egyptian-Iraqi relations as growing steadily on the basis of the concrete positions which the two countries adopted on issues of concern to the Arab world.

'Ali said that his current visit is taking place in response to an invitation by Tariq 'Aziz. The visit was scheduled to take place some time ago, but work and recent Egyptian diplomatic activity prevented that.

Asked about President Husni Mubarak's projected visit to Iraq, 'Ali said that the invitation is still standing and the visit is still planned.

Responding to another question on the Conference for the Support of the Palestinian People which will be held in Cairo on 30 March, 'Ali said that Cairo has and always will support the Palestinian question. He said that Egypt has entered into four wars for the sake of this question. He added that all sides have responded to the invitation to attend this conference because of Egypt's firm position on the Palestinian question.

Asked whether Egypt has been asked to mediate in order to end the Iraqi-Iranian war, 'Ali affirmed that in its capacity as a member of the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Congress, and the United Nations, Egypt supports all mediation by these organizations. He said that it is not right that the world should sit idly by when all these souls are wasted without any justification. This is the reason, he added, why we support all efforts to stop the war.

Asked his opinion about the resolutions of the Arab states' Foreign Ministers Council, which was recently held in Baghdad, on the Iraqi-Iranian war, 'Ali said: The resolutions issued by this conference are justified and they are significant. The formation of the standing committee is undoubtedly a positive measure. We hope the committee will be given the opportunity to contribute positively to ending the war or to supporting Iraq.

Asked about the contacts which Egypt held with Yugoslavia, India, and other states regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war, 'Ali pointed out that ending the Iraqi-Iranian war is one of the main goals of Egyptian diplomatic moves in all our international contacts. This is because we are fully convinced that this war must be stopped as soon as possible. Asked his opinion regarding the positions by Libya and Syria in support of Iran and against Iraq, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that these positions conflict with the Arab League's charter and resolutions and that it is astonishing.

Support for Iraq

JN241930 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that Egypt's support and backing for Iraq in its just war to defend its territory is a cornerstone of the strong relations between the two fraternal countries.

In an interview with Baghdad television this evening, 'Ali said that Iraqi-Egyptian relations have reached the desired level. He added that the political relations have also reached a level of understanding and of exchanging views that will lead to close cooperation in dealing with both Arab and international issues.

On the participation of the Egyptians in the Iraqi development and construction movement, side by side with their Iraqi brothers, 'Ali said that such participation is the essence of our relations. He said any positive contribution from one Arab country to another is prompted by a popular motive and by the spirit of joint pan-Arab interests.

Talks Begin

JN251359 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1322 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA) — The Iraqi-Egyptian talks began at the Foreign Ministry here this morning. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, presided over the Iraqi side. Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, presided over the Egyptian side.

The two sides comprehensively reviewed the fraternal relations existing between the two countries as well as the Arab and international issues that are of common interest. Tariq 'Aziz explained in detail the repeated Iranian attacks on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland and Iraq's ability to crush these attacks no matter how long they continue.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali expressed Egypt's complete support for Iraq in its just war against the Iranian aggression. He also expressed Egypt's appreciation of the efforts being exerted by Iraq for the sake of reaching a just and peaceful solution.

Muhammad Sa'id as-Sahhaf, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and the foreign minister's adviser attended the talks for Iraq; and several Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials and the head of the Egyptian interests mission in Baghdad attended them for Egypt.

Meetings With Ramadan, 'Aziz

NC251605 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held a meeting this afternoon with Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister.

Afterward, Kamal Hasan 'Ali announced that the discussion at the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and with Iraq's need for a total of 1.5 million Egyptian workers. The discussions also touched on streamlining the two states' labor affairs in a manner ensuring that Egyptian workers receive all their rights. Kamal Hasan 'Ali invited the Iraqi labor minister to visit Egypt.

Talks were also held this morning between Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Our correspondent in Baghdad learned that the talks dealt with the Gulf war and with the Arab and international stands on this war.

The correspondent also learned that efforts being exerted by mediators to halt the Iraq-Iran war were reviewed. The talks also dealt with the Middle East situation.

The radio correspondent also learned that Iraq is thinking of proposing a reconciliatory formula [sighah tawfiqiyah] for the sake of restoring Arab solidarity in a manner that would not clash with the commitments of some states toward a collective return. [sentence as heard]

Meeting With Egyptian Envoys

NC241724 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Mar (MENA) — Upon arrival in Baghdad today, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, chaired a meeting of the heads of the Egyptian diplomatic missions in the Arab Gulf states.

The meeting was attended by Ambassador Ahmad Abu al-Khayr, head of the Egyptian Interests Mission in Saudi Arabia; Ambassador Sa'id ad-Dasuqi, Egyptian ambassador to Oman; Ambassador Mahmud Mahdi, head of the Egyptian interests mission in Qatar; Ambassador Husayn al-Kamil, head of the Egyptian interests mission in Kuwait; Ambassador Sa'id Abu Jundiyah, head of the Egyptian interests mission in Bahrain; Ambassador Ahmad Sabri, head of the Egyptian interests mission in the UAE; and Ambassador Ahmad Kamil, head of the Egyptian interests mission in Iraq.

During this meeting, a review was made of all the developments in the Gulf area, particularly with regard to the Iraqi-Iranian war which Kamal Hasan 'Ali described as one of the focal points of Egyptian diplomacy.

Egypt is currently intensifying its efforts to solve it immediately. The meeting will also review the situation with regard to the Palestinian issue.

Briefing for Envoys 25 Mar

NC251927 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1838 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign ministers, today chaired a meeting of the heads of Egyptian diplomatic missions in the Gulf states. During the meeting, the envoys submitted written reports to Kamal Hasan 'Ali on the situation in the countries to which they are accredited, on the effects of the Iraqi-Iranian war on these countries, and on their views on the direction of this war. Their reports also covered the state of the Egyptian communities in the Gulf states and their views on the means of bolstering relations between Egypt and these countries.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali explained the dimensions of the current Egyptian move to end the Iraqi-Iranian war and to achieve security and stability in the Gulf region. He also instructed the envoys on Egypt's policy in this area, which is of interest to Egypt.

MENA's correspondent in Baghdad has learned that Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz reviewed during their meeting today all developments resulting from the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war, as well as its possible implications. They analyzed all international and regional stances towards the war. They also made a comprehensive review of various developments in the Middle East region, including the Lebanese issue and the Palestinian issue.

The discussions also dealt with the state of Egyptian workers and of the Egyptian community in Iraq. It was learned that Iraq expressed its desire and interest in providing the best climate for the Egyptian community and in providing suitable opportunities for Egyptian workers.

Arab-Egyptian Relations Discussed

JN251835 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Baghdad]

[Text] Iraq has proposed a reconciliatory formula for restoring Egypt to the Arab League while not disrupting Egypt's international commitments or its Arab commitments; that is, without officially linking restoration of Arab diplomatic relations with Egypt to restoring Egypt to the Arab League, and at the same time without Egypt relinquishing its commitments to the peace treaty.

These Iraqi ideas were officially proposed today during the talks between Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Taha Yasain Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister.

As Taha Yasin Ramadan has told me, proposals are being discussed to establish certain relations between the Arabs and Egypt. He said that through its relations with Egypt and the Arabs, Iraq will work for the creation of the proper climate for restoring Arab solidarity. He added that he believes that result will not befar away should Egypt and the Arab states exert their daring spirit.

At the same time, Taha Yasin Ramadan pointed out the reasons behind this Iraqi proposal. He said: The Baghdad summit resolutions have not called for isolating Egypt, but for preventing the collapse of the Arab nation. He said: We must not allow one or more Arab states to prevent the restoration of Arab solidarity including Egypt. He added: Iraq's stand differs from two main courses in the Arab world. There is a course which says that through a certain behavior, Egypt has deviated from the Arab nation and thus, Egypt must return to the Arab nation, while the Arab nation is still in its place. He said that this opinion works against restoring Egypt. The second course says that since the Arabs expelled Egypt, they must cancel their decision. This course also works against restoring Egypt However, Taha Yasin Ramadan said, Iraq believes that Arab nation and Egypt must return to each other, for Egypt needs the Arab nation and the Arab nation needs Egypt.

However, the formula for restoring Iraq's diplomatic relations with Egypt during the current stage will fall short for some time.Meanwhile, Iraq is proposing a short-term solution. On the other hand, Egypt will discuss the Iraqi proposal when Kamal Hasan 'Ali presents his report to President Husni Mubarak after returning to Cairo tomorrow and after Iraqi President Saddam Husayn receives him.

The important thing is that Kamal Hasan 'Ali's talks in Baghdad are taking place 5 years after Egypt signed a peace treaty on 26 March 1979. In his statements today, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that Iraq proceeds with full confidence thatPresident Husni Mubarak will exert every effort which would serve Egypt and the Arab nation, particularly regarding the Iraq-Iran war, the Palestinian question, and Iraq's relations with the PLO.

Ramadan on Mubarak Role

NC251919 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Excerpt] In the statements he made at a meeting with Egyptian journalists following his meeting today with Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egypt's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed his country's appreciation of the political role that President Mubarak is performing, particularly with regard to the Iraq-Iran war and the Palestinian issue, as well as to the whole situation in the area.

The Iraqi official asserted that his country will continue to exert efforts to create a propitious atmosphere for Egypt's return to the Arab fold. He added that Iraq wants to propose a formula for the restoration of Arab solidarity.

Taha Yasin Ramadan described Kamal Hasan 'Ali's current visit to Baghdad as an important step that will have a positive impact on the development of bilateral relations.

With regard to the major powers' responsibility for halting the Iraq-Iran war, Taha Yasin Ramadan emphasized that it is incumbent on these states to seek to bring about implementation of the Security Council resolutions, to impose an economic boycott against Iran, and to ban arms supplies to Iran in order to force it to stop the war.

Ramadan said: Iraq supports international mediation for ending the war while, through its rejection of mediation, Iran confirms its expansionist designs.

Meeting With Saddam Husayn

JN261155 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received here today Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and his accompanying delegation.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali delivered to the president a written message from his brother Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, expressing Egypt's solidarity with Iraq in the just war that it is waging against the Iranian aggression, and praising the Iraqi Armed Forces' courage in defending the eastern flank of the Arab homeland. President Saddam Husayn expressed his and Iraq's appreciation for the stand adopted by President Husni Mubarak and Arab Egypt toward our just war against the Iranian regime's aggression.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the advanced relations which exist between the two fraternal countries, and stressed the two parties' eagerness to promote them in all fields. They also reviewed the Arab situation and international issues of mutual interest.

President Saddam Husayn asked Kamal Hasan 'Ali to convey his greetings to his brother President Husni Mubarak, as well as his best wishes to the Egyptian people for further dignity and progress.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the president's secretary.

Usamah al-Baz on Egyptian Efforts To End Gulf War

JN260721 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's political adviser, has stated that Egypt is currently holding deliberations with several nonaligned countries, particularly India, to discuss the best way for the Nonaligned Movement to exert new efforts for ending the war between Iraq and Iran.

In a statement to *ATH-THAWRAH* today, Al-Baz said that Egypt is working through all means to reach a solution that will end the Iraqi-Iranian war which benefits no one.

Dr al-Baz called on the international community to assume its responsibilities for ending war between Iraq and Iran.

He said he hopes that the nonaligned countries will exert their efforts to end this war as its prolongation poses a threat to the international community.

President Receives LE FIGARO Chief Editor
JN251538 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received Robert Lacontre, chief editor of the French magazine *LE FIGARO* and author specialized in international political affairs.

During the meeting, talks touched on the Iraqi-Iranian war, the situation in Lebanon, the Palestine question, and the Arab situation in general, in addition to Iraq's stands in the international arena. Hani Wahib, President Saddam Husayn's press and information secretary, attended the meeting.

House Statement Supports King on U.S. Relations
JN251316 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Mar 84

["Text" of statement issued by House of Representatives on 25 March 1984 — read by announcer]

[Text] 1. The House of Representatives supports His Majesty King Husayn's statements and his courageous leadership in his condemnation of the U.S. role represented in supporting the Israeli entity's aggression against the Arab nation; supplying Israel with all forms of military, political, and moral support to continue its aggression and occupation of Arab territory; and supplying Israel with all forms of economic and financial aid to enable it build settlements in the occupied Arab territories, and to help it in carrying out its strategy aimed at usurping the occupied Arab territories, Judaizing them, and changing the features of the holy places in them.

2. The House of Representatives condemns the Israeli-U.S.-Zionist alliance against the Arab nation and strongly and firmly denounces the U.S. policy which supports Israel and which aims at besieging the Arab homeland and tying it with agreements and alliances to serve the interests of the Israeli enemy. The House of Representatives also denounces the voices which, because of the Zionist influence in the United States, call for moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and place obstacles to supplying Jordan with the weapons it needs for its legitimate self-defense.

3. The House of Representatives believes that the continued U.S. support for and bias toward Israel has caused the United States to lose its credibility as a superpower which must respect its international commitments. This situation made the United States, in the opinion of the region's peoples, a country which is not honest in adopting the neutral position required in the Arab-Israeli dispute. Hence, the House of Representatives supports the convening of an international peace conference to discuss the Arab-Israeli dispute in which the five UN Security Council members and the parties to the dispute will participate.

4. The House of Representatives calls on the Arab peoples and governments to support the Jordanian stand and to close ranks in order to confront the dangers and conspiracies designed against our Arab nation.

5. The House of Representatives also calls on the Islamic and friendly countries to firmly support the Arab nation in its struggle to liberate the usurped Arab territories and the holy places from the yoke of the Zionist colonialism and occupation.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B on Rumsfeld Tour, U.S. Policy
JN240950 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 24 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Rumsfeld and the Dangerous Signs," *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* says: Donald Rumsfeld's current tour of the region has surprised many observers. The U.S. Administration and American circles are busy with the election campaign. Many political trends which the U.S. envoy tried to establish in the region have been concealed, and their owners went back on them as if they were afraid to get more involved in these trends.

It is obvious that the moral gap which characterizes the contradictory situation in the region has been fatal to many politicians who tried to overcome it. Supporting the occupiers against the aggrieved parties and the killers against the martyrs, whether it is political, economic, or military support, is a matter which is contrary to the instinctive nature of human beings. Throughout history this nature has linked concern about human existence and adherence to justice.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B continues: President Carter left without being able to adhere to the moral principles which he had called for as a basis for U.S. foreign policy. After leaving the White House, Carter talked about Zionist influence and its role in supporting his rival against him. As-Sadat left because he relinquished the idea of justice and defending it. Begin left because he was used to bypassing justice by force, and his successor and all the ruling Likud coalition are following him. All those people left. However, history will be able to call them to account and place them before truth.

Today, Rumsfeld is visiting the region and will see that all disputing parties are unanimous on one matter: criticizing U.S. policy which has deviated from the course which would have achieved an exit for the region's dilemma which U.S. policy and its complete bias for aggression are responsible for. In Lebanon, those who were supported by the *New Jersey* and those who were shelled by the *New Jersey* unanimously blame U.S. policy. In the Arab world, the matter is more complicated. People were astonished to see that the judge who is supposed to be fair had turned into an opponent who does not hesitate to commit grave mistakes. The strange thing is that Rumsfeld visited Israel on the same day its Knesset voted on the fall of the government which, because of U.S. encouragement, was involved in many adventures and committed many mistakes.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: What is required from the United States in this region is to stop adopting the role of an enemy of the people; to stop its determination to seize the right of the people to self-determination; to stop seizing the role of the United Nations; and to stop considering this region a testing arena for conflict with other international forces. The United States can do this, even while it is busy with the presidential election.

American Policy Ignores Arabs' Interests
JN241128 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Mar 84 pp 1, 25

["Opinion" signed by "Muti'," headlined "Dialogue... Without a Result"]

[Excerpts] Logical analysis and serious comment are no longer feasible vis-a-vis the problem the Arabs have with U.S. policy because this problem began to take on a comic nature for which I can find no parallel excerpt in the parable of dialogue among the deaf, whose story was given in almost all languages and written in the books of old and modern literature. In this story

an anwer is made to a question that has not been asked and a clearification is made to an issue that has not been discussed. The discussion then ends in nobody understanding anybody.

In the case of the Americans, it is an intentional deafness or ignoble disregard as expressed by Jonathan Swift, a famous English writer, who said: They do not want to hear and give you a deaf ear because they do not like the truth.

The Arabs talk to them about a just peace that guarantees the rights of all, but they support an Israeli peace that devours everything.

Arab diplomacy, together with Islamic diplomacy and four-fifths of the world, works hard to convince them to adopt a balanced policy, but they practice a one-eyed, biased policy that gives the Jews all of Palestine and will send the Arabs — if this policy continues — out of all Palestine and the Middle East.

The latest cry has not reached us yet; it is still on its way. They fabricate the story of transferring the embassy to Jerusalem, then introduce into the equation justification of the cancellation of the missile deal for Jordan and Saudi Arabia, as if Israel had a definite and established right to Jerusalem and as if they had forced it to offer this great sacrifice for our sake and our friendship. What is worse is that they cancel the missile deal and talk about a Jordanian role in the Gulf, as if the danger is approaching Jordan from the Pacific shores and not across the Jordan River, or as if Jordan's Army is a division belonging the the Pentagon, and not — as Jordan's history stands witness — a weapon in the hand of the Arab will and a shield of pan-Arab interests.

In order to complete the decor in this U.S. farce, serious discussions are taking place in the Congress between supporters and objectors. Although we respect those who object to this blind partiality and do not doubt the sincerity of at least some of them, the theatrical seems to be tightly woven and will end with the same result. This reminds us of the story of the moderates and extremists as well as the Likud and the Ma'arakh on the Israeli political stage.

Let us return to the futile dialogue between the Arabs — all the Arabs — and the United States.

Can such a dialogue lead to any result so long as the defect is in the heart, mind, and feeling?

TIMES Views Prospects for Sales of Weapons

JN241144 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Mar 84 p 1

[By Salameh B. Ni'mat]

[Text] Amman — U.S. President Ronald Reagan's decision to drop the planned sale of anti-aircraft Stinger missile to Jordan and Saudi Arabia has left Washington open to fresh Arab charges of pro-Israeli bias and several Western countries said they would consider selling arms to the Kingdom.

The Jordanian government announced Wednesday that it deeply regretted the U.S. decision which it regarded as detrimental to Jordan's defence capability. There has been no reaction from Saudi Arabia yet. Middle East newspapers said Thursday and Friday that the U.S. decision underlined accusations by His Majesty King Husayn that American policy in the region was biased in favour of Israel and marked a surrender by President Reagan to pressure from the Jewish lobby at Capitol Hill.

Announcing the U.S. decision Wednesday, White House spokesman Larry Speaks gave no reason for Mr. Reagan's move to drop the proposed sale of 1,613 shoulder-held Stinger missiles to Jordan and 1,400 of the same type to Saudi Arabia. The proposal had been strongly criticised by the U.S. Congress, by Israel and by American Jewish groups.

King Husayn said in recent interviews with the *NEW YORK TIMES* and American television networks that U.S. aid to Israel enables it to sustain its illegal construction of settlements in occupied Arab territories, creating new obstacles in constructive moves for Middle East peace.

The King's comments, which represented a strong reflection of a position widely held by Arab states, sent shock waves through Washington. The king said last Sunday that Jordan would feel free to turn to any other country, including the Soviet Union, for military aid if Congress blocked the Stinger sale.

West European countries, most notably France, Britain, West Germany, and Italy, have made steady inroads into America's huge arms market in the Middle East.

Italian officials in Amman told the *JORDAN TIMES* that in case Jordan sought weapons from Italy, their government would consider the request.

"But," one official said, "it might depend on the type of weapon, how and when and other variable."

A British embassy official told the *JORDAN TIMES* that a request by the Jordanian government for military assistance from Britain would be "seriously considered," while a French diplomat said "such a request would be studied carefully,"

Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Emilio Menendez del Valle told the *JORDAN TIMES* that discussions are under way to sell Jordan Spanish-manufactured C-101 military training airplanes and that in February, a Jordanian Armed Forces delegation visited Spain for that purpose. Spain is also in the process of providing Jordan with telecommunications systems and military trucks, the ambassador said.

Earlier this month, Chinese Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Gong Dafei, accompanying Chinese President Li Xiannian on a six-day state visit to Jordan, said China is ready to provide Jordan whatever Chinese arms the kingdom needs.

Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Akira Nakayama told the *JORDAN TIMES* that Japan would "never export weapons to any country in the world as the Japanese constitution does not allow such sales." Japan has maintained its impartiality towards the Iran-Iraq war, the envoy pointed out.

Two Persons Injured in Amman Explosion 24 Mar

JN241215 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] A responsible source at the Interior Ministry has stated the following:

At 1027 today, Saturday, 24 March 1984, a small explosive charge went off behind the wall of the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel 1 meter from its eastern entrance. The explosion shattered the glass of two cars there and damaged the glass door of the Arab Bank branch near the entrance.

The glass fragments slightly injured a man and his daughter, who were walking on the sidewalk adjecent to the hotel wall. No other losses in lives or property resulted from this incident.

AFP Report

NC241341 Paris AFP in English 1332 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Amman, March 24 (AFP) — A bomb went off across the street from the U.S. embassy here today, injuring two people, an official communique announced. The device, which left a crater 50 centimeters (about 20 inches) wide, had been planted by the wall surrounding the car park of the Intercontinental hotel, the interior ministry said.

A man and his daughter driving into the hotel were injured when the door of their car was blown off, the communique said.

The blast shattered the windows of two cars in the car park and the facade of a nearby branch office of the "Arab bank".

Police have set up a security cordon around the hotel and General Zayd ibn Shakir, Army commander-in-chief, was inspecting the area to assess damage.

There was no official reference to a second bomb, which journalists on the scene said had been found and defused.

A police officer said a suitcase containing 20 kgs (44 lbs) of TNT was primed to go off 20 minutes after the first bomb.

Dissidents Threaten More Blasts

NC242238 Paris AFP in English 2234 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, March 24 (AFP) — A dissident Palestinian group today threatened to plant bombs in official Jordanian Government buildings. The group accepted responsibility for a bomb blast near the U.S. Embassy in Amman earlier today which slightly injured two people.

The threat comes a few days before Monday's scheduled start to a visit to Jordan by Britain's Queen Elizabeth. The group also threatened that Britain would pay a "very high price" if the London government continued its "hostility" toward Arabs.

The group is called the Revolutionary Council of Fatah and is a breakaway group from Fatah, which is the main organisation in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). It is headed by Abu Nidal.

Today's attack was carried out following "acts of terrorism perpetrated by the Jordanian regime against Palestinian combatants and Jordanian nationalists," said a statement. The group would multiply its attacks against the Jordanian regime and its agents, the statement added.

25 Mar AR-RA'Y Editorial

JN250900 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Mar 84 p 1

[Editorial: "Howling of a Stray Wolf"]

[Text] Regardless of the identity and motives of the perpetrators of yesterday's explosion, what happened will not alter any of the basic acts pertaining to Jordan's position or actions. These facts are manifested as follows:

First: Jordan's position in exposing foreign policies hostile to the Arabs will not be affected if those who planted the explosive wanted to oppose the process for exploitation in this cowardly manner.

Second: Jordan's responsible actions in safeguarding the security of those residing in it, whether they are citizens or foreigners, will continue, intensify, and strengthen despite this incident, because Jordan will not allow anyone to tarnish its status and stability.

Third: The Jordanian family as a whole considers itself responsible for supporting and strengthening our country's positions and actions. These are civilized positions and actions that will not be distorted by an incident perpetrated by suspect fingers which cannot be civilized in their identity and affiliation.

In light of these facts, we say that our country's march will remain stronger than the challenges because it is a benevolent march in broad daylight. The stability that characterizes this country will also remain deep rooted and firm.

The Israeli propaganda machine seized the incident and magnified it by word and picture, as if this was the chance it was waiting for to discharge all the rancor it holds for this country. No matter how far the illusions of this propaganda machine go in its tendentious analyses and scenarios, the facts that are above conjecture all indicate that the incident was nothing more than the howling of a stray wolf instigated by cowardly hands.

Jordan, which is cohesive in its leadership and people, and which believes in its pan-Arab march and civilized activities will always remain the brave knight that honorably opens the way. It will not be harmed by howling and will continue to remain sincere to its examples and genuineness despite the machinations fo the conspirators.

AD-DUSTUR on Future of Arab-USSR Relations

JN251144 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Mar 84 p 5

["Weekly Article" by Kamil ash-Sharif, Chairman of *AD-DUSTUR* Board of Administration and former minister of religious affairs: "Talk on Soviet-Arab Relations"]

[Text] After writing in this column about the Arabs' chronic problems with the United States, talking about Arab-USSR relations seems to be a natural extension of this research or, as many say, may be the other side of the coin, because one's thoughts automatically turn toward the Eastern side after being bitten by the Western side. The opposite is also true, but as Arabs we are experiencing a state of general weakness which is affected by international polarization leaving small countries with no other choice but to seek the protection of one giant to escape the claws of the other.

While the conviction becomes more entrenched that the United States is only another name for the Zionist entity or for world Jewry, the attempt to explore Russian relations with the Arab-Islamic world acquires vital importance.

I realize that dealing with this subject envolves exaggerated sensitivities and appears to be like treading a minefield. I am not concerned about the opinion of the Soviets as much as I am about the opinion of some of the Arabs who became accustomed to adopting one course, thus making them unable to see the various angles of any cause. Some believe that no good can come from the USSR and that any appreciation or praise of its stands is support for Marxist theory. Others believe that it cannot have any bad points and view any criticism of it as support for U.S. imperialism. I can testify here that Russian thinkers are more broad minded than all of them. On various occasions, some times in the Soviet Union itself, I have had the opportunity to submit some of these sensitivities as explicitly as possible and to listen to some polite answers, even if these answers were not completely convincing. After these meetings we would always part in mutual respect. The reason for this willingness to talk may be that what governs there is an idea or an ideology represented by a political party which considers dialogue as one of its trenchant weapons, or maybe because there is the realization of being powerful. A powerful state can suffer the criticism of the weak or pay no heed to them, and believes that any link between them, in any form whatsoever, places the adversary on a sloping path that will sooner of later make him yield. Maybe as Churchill told Stalin during one of their dialogues in Yalta, the eagle must not preoccupy itself with the bird's singing. One or all of these reasons may be behind this attitude. Nevertheless, it remains a positive point that is worth mentioning, this readiness to hold a dialogue on and a discussion of the opposite opinion, seek points of agreement, and accept criticism in good humor. These are virtures which many Arab thinkers still lack, thinkers who stand at opposite ends of the conference hall and discuss this issue from two angles only, those of love and hate.

When we definitely dissociate ourselves from the United States, it is only natural that we should aspire for stable relations with the USSR, relations that will not be governed by apprehension or doubt. We would not be exaggerating when we say that we want these relations to be near the level of the relations which exist between Washington and Tel Aviv; the interests of one will be an extension of the interests of the other; the strength of one party will be the property of the other party; and that together, the two form a single party in times of peace and war. We say this because we sense that the magnitude of the Israeli challenge, backed by the United States and its allies, is not only directed against the Arabs but is within the context of a broader plan for the confrontation of the USSR in this region, which is close to its borders, and because this challenge no longer suffers half-solutions or fragile and hesitate alliances which see things with one eye and watch the changes with the other.

Is this kind of stable relationship with the USSR possible and what prevents its taking place?

Here we clash with some of the patterns adopted by our Arab brothers, to whom we previously referred, who believe that posing this question and replying to it in the open harms Arab interests. They proceed from an incomplete understanding containing errors as much as dangers because they assume the existence of secrets in international relations and assume that one must only whisper about them and others must not hear them. In other words, they believe that airing one's dirty linen in public will not satisfy the family's dignity or the tribe's interest.

They forget that this issue, and others like it, are the topics of discussions, conferences, and seminars which are made public and are read by the people on both sides of what used to be known as the Iron Curtain, or the bamboo curtain which isolates China from its neighbors.

The limitations which govern Arab-USSR relations and the psychological or practical restrictions which hamper their development are known by both the Russians and the Amercians. When our thinkers try to speak about them in whispers so that neighbors will not hear them, they are only deceiving themselves because everyone knows about them and the planners on both sides are very well aware of them and take them into consideration.

When we threaten to support the USSR as we did in previous stages of the Arab-Israeli dispute, those who plan Western strategy are well aware of the extent of this threat and deal with it on the basis of facts and figures. We would not be exaggerating when we say that the U.S. and Israeli stand, which persists in its hostility and is characterized by disregard and indifference, is closely linked to this visualization. From this premise, the call for the establishment of stable realtions with the USSR based on a clear sound foundation is unquestionably in the two parties' interest and will confront the threats with facts that will change the balances. However, the ups and downs in Soviet-Arab relations are not a hypothetical matter around which one can revolve as its effects will appear all along the long march. We merely have to mention here the many changes which occurred in Egypt, Sudan, and Iraq, something that cannot be taken lightly and on which one cannot pass speedy judgments of treason and agentry or other simple judgments of this kind which do not require a more thorough study. One must search deeper and go back to the foundations. This is an attempt in which the Soviets alone have a role to play and in which the Arabs and the Soviets also have a joint role to play. However, the most important role is to be

carried out by the Arabs, and no others can participate with them in this.

How do Western planners look at this issue? This is a big quesstion to which we shall reply in a few remarks:

The first factor is the ideological and intellectual factor, the impossibility of harmonizing communism and Islam, and the assuption that any relationship will be fraught with apprehensions and doubts and likely to be dissolved when the time for the natural or industrial confrontation between the two theories takes place at some corner along the road.

The second factor is the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and the war that is raging there. The USSR may find some Arab leaders who will encourage it to pursue its stand on this cause or who will show indifference to the fate of the Afghan people. However, the opinion of the Arab and Islamic peoples, not only once, but twice contradicts this. The first instance is the deep sense of Islamic affiliation which makes the Muslim share the pains of his brother Muslim, regardless of how far apart they are. These sentiments have existed for 15 centuries and no one can change them. The second is dictated by the fear of a big power invading the territory of a small neighbor country to protect a detested government, irrespective of the justifications and excuses. Those who plan Western strategy assume that the ghost of Afghanistan looms over the Arab-Islamic horizon and prevents relations from attaining the desired level.

The third factor is that they do not consider the Arabs, as well as the Muslims, one camp that might constitute an important force in the international arena and a support for the Soviet Union, a fact that makes the Soviet Union cooperate with small groups that do not have any economic or military weight. The significance of this fact deprives the Arabs of taking a decisive position on any issue and prevents them from dealing with others as friends or enemies in a clear way. There are many indications, the last of which is the current situation in Sudan, which views the United States as a savior from Al-Qadhdhafi's ambitions while it is being blamed by the Palestine question parties. These are the three factors that the Israeli and U.S. planners take into consideration. Of course, there are others, but the outcome of the research does not make them consider the Soviet-Arab alliance as a serious one that might place them before real dangers and, consequently, persuade them to change their indifferent position and meet the legitimate demands of the Arabs and Muslims.

We have said that some of these factors can be dealt with by the Soviet Union. It may understand that a reconciliation in the Islamic world in the long run can contribute to its support for the Kabul government. Regarding bilateral relations, including the ideological differences, the golden principle represented by non-interference in domestic affairs will govern these relations. The Soviet Union took another step in this direction when Brezhnev, in his speech at 26th conference of the CPSU, said that Islam might serve progressive objectives. This is an constructive view compared with previous views in the Marxist dictionary. What is more important is that these principles should be strategic and firm and not tactical ones that change with changes of circumstances and environment.

The fourth and the most important factor is the duty of the Arabs themselves. By this factor we mean Arab accord and dealing with others through one plan based on the higher Arab interests so that these interests form the only criterion toward friends and enemies. Undoubtedly, the Soviet interest lies in helping to achieve that and in removing the cause of apprehension that blurs the eyes and distorts the image of friendship. On many occasions, Soviet media have stressed joint interest in the unity of the Arab position.

On 25 June 1982, following the Lebanese war, TASS blamed the Arabs for their differences. It ended its commentary with cynical expressions reflecting the reality of that stand when it recalled the famous Arab no's then said: no to a unified Arab strategy, no to an Arab summit, and no to practical steps to punish the aggressors' nursemaid. It ended its commentary by wondering if the Arabs really want to save Palestine. We will conclude this study by repeating what we said about the fate of U.S.-Arab relations.

There is no alternative to organizing the house on the basis of faith, which will realize strength and trust and move feelings toward action and struggle. There is no alternative to unifying the Islamic-Arab ranks and organizing their capabilities and energies in accordance with a comprehensive plan to arrange all the factors and details, because any failure in that will turn the Arabs — in our view — into a weak entity whose friendship would not be sought and whose enmity would not be feared. Some think that what we are seeking is merely dreams, but greatness for nations cannot be achieved by submitting to faits accomplis. Greatness does not come without paying its full price of suffering and sacrifices.

Ambassador in Tunis Meets With Chedli Klibi

JN231644 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Tunis — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi met in Tunis today with Nabih an-Nimr, Jordan's ambassador in Tunis and permanent representative to the Arab League. During the meeting, discussions focused on topics listed on the agenda of the Arab League Council meeting to convene on 29 March 1984. Foremost of these are topics pertaining to Jordan which will be discussed during the Council meeting.

Nabih an-Nimr said that the meeting with Klibi focused on His Majesty King Husayn's latest statements on U.S. policy in the region which were described by the secretary general as courageous, objective, and farsighted. He added that the meeting also dealt with the biased U.S. policy toward Israel, inter-Arab relations, the situation in Lebanon, and the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Contacts, Stands Regarding W. Beirut Strife Noted

Cease-Fire, Contacts Reported

NC231944 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1920 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The intensity of clashes in West Beirut has abated as a result of the cease-fire agreement reached this evening. Reports indicate that gunmen still hold their previous positions.

Meanwhile, the conferees who met at the residence of Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid have issued a statement. In this statement they urged an immediate cease-fire, the withdrawal of all gunmen, the abolishment of all roadblocks in Beirut, a halt to information campaigns, and the abidance of all parties concerned with the cease-fire. The statement urged the Internal Security Directorate to implement all these decisions [as heard].

The conferees asked all parties concerned to observe the cease-fire as of 2030.

Various Contacts Effect Calm

NC240620 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Calm prevails throughout West Beirut this morning following the implementation of the cease-fire in the wake of local clashes in West Beirut, during which several people were killed or wounded, and much damage and destruction occurred. Yesterday's clashes were accompanied by intensive contacts and political consultations by His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Republic; Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council; and certain political leaders.

These contacts were crowned by a plenary meeting last night at Mufti Khalid's residence. It was attended by the mufti, Shaykh Shams ad-Din, several former prime ministers, former ministers, deputies, and leaders of the Progressive Socialist Party and Amal Movement.

A statement issued after the meeting said decisions were made to effect an immediate cease-fire; withdraw all gunmen from all Beirut areas; end armed activity and any unofficial armed presence; and suspend propaganda campaigns, as well as to request the Internal Security Forces Directorate to implement the above.

Sources at the mufti's office said a delegation of the conferees, including Shaykh Khaldun 'Uraymiq and Yahya al-Ka'ki, visited the Al-Murabitun Headquarters to convey these decisions. It was agreed to cease fire as of 2030 last night. The cease-fire is actually being abided by.

The sources added that Mufti Khalid will meet this morning with some former prime ministers, some ministers, and a delegation of the Al-Murabitun Command to consult with them on security developments and on restorating normal life.

Opposing Sides To Meet in Syria

NC240630 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Political consultations are expected to be resumed today. Some leaders might visit Damascus within the framework of averting any setback and of consolidating stability in Beirut on a specific, clear military-political basis.

Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, will arrive in Damascus tomorrow. Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement, has already arrived in Damascus. Amal Movement sources said Birri has postponed his scheduled visit to Rome to come to Damascus. Moreover, Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the Al-Murabitun Movement, is now in Damascus.

Delegation in Syria; Junblatt Cited

NC250600 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] A Sunnite delegation comprising [former] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, Malik Salam, and Husayn al-Quwatli arrived in Damascus yesterday on a mission confined to discussing the new developments in West Beirut in the wake of the new military equation imposed on the area. The visit was set up during a telephone call yesterday between Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid and Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Mufti Khalid expressed concern over the failure of the Internal Security Forces to assume their duties in West Beirut.

[Former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami emphasized: We just cannot maintain silence over the events in West Beirut. He added those who planned to partition Lebanon are still working in the same direction.

Meanwhile in Damascus, Walid Junblatt described the recent operation in West Beirut as useful because it had unveiled the true faces of certain figures. He added: It was imperative for us to settle the issue of these figures who for a long time claimed they were defending the rights of the nationalists and Muslims. He said: These figures were trying to outdo each other over the citizens' rights, and this made us, alongside the Amal Movement and the devout nationalists in West Beirut, coordinate our political and military efforts to settle the issue. We, Junblatt added, will not permit the return of these figures under any circumstances.

Continuing his statement, Junblatt explained that the outcome of the Lausanne conference — though bad — has consolidated the national ranks and settled many issues. Consequently, we had to create new alliances and hold a comprehensive assessement.

Mufti Khalid, Khaddam On Events

NC241534 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1505 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Mufti Hasan Khalid today contacted Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, during which they reviewed the situation in West Beirut.

A delegation representing Mufti Khalid was to visit Damascus this afternoon to hold discussions with Syrian officials regarding this matter. The delegation included former Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and the director general of Al-Ifta' affairs, Husayn al-Quwatli.

Mufti Khalid also urged former prime ministers and former and present Muslim ministers and deputies to meet at 1100 on Monday to discuss the latest incidents that shook West Beirut.

Qulaylat On Meeting Junblatt

NC241652 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] The Revolutionary Committee of Al-Murabitun has issued a statement saying that what took place during the past 2 days confirms the steadiness of the [Al-Murabitun] Movement's principles. These principles are based on national and Islamic requirements for confronting the enemy in and outside Lebanon. The statement said Al-Murabitun is capable of sticking to its principles and continuing its struggle.

Mufti Hasan Khalid has expressed his disappointment at what is taking place on the ground, and that the Internal Security Forces were not allowed to assume their duties and carry out the resolutions made by all parties.

In an interview with *MONDAY MORNING*, Shaykh Khalid said: No place should be dominated by one community; otherwise, our country will be segregated.

From Damascus, Ibrahim Qulaylat said he will return to Beirut as soon as his talks with Syrian officials are concluded. Qulaylat expressed a willingness to meet Walid Junblatt. No preconditions are set by Qulaylat for such a meeting, because, as Qulaylat put it, national interest is above any other consideration. However, he ruled out any mediation between his [Al-Murabitun] Movement and the Socialists.

Qulaylat admitted that his movement had lost several positions, pointing out that Beirut Sunnites fought beside the Al-Murabitun.

Junblatt Charges Noted

NC250837 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, has arrived in Damascus following a visit to London at the end of the National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne.

The British *SUNDAY TIMES* today said Junblatt met last Thursday with Dany Sham'un in London. They discussed ways of settling the Lebanese crisis, the return of the evacuees from the Ash-Shuf area to their homes, and the question of political reforms.

In Damascus, Junblatt said the action taken in Beirut last Thursday and Friday was necessary to settle matters. He accused the Al-Murabituns of having connections with certain quarters [not further specified]. He said the decision on the action was made in coordination with the Amal Movement.

Junblatt Cited on Agreement

NC251206 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Two meetings were held in Damascus last night and this morning between Walid Junblatt and the Sunnite delegation led by [former] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss.

After today's meeting, Junblatt said an agreement has been reached involving the warring factions in West Beirut, according to which the Internal Security Forces and 6th Brigade will take over the positions recently captured by the Junblattist gunmen. He added that this agreement was reached during a meeting in Damascus this morning attended by representatives of the warring factions, and under the auspices of Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Monte Carlo Interviews Qulaylet

JN232011 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1743 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Interview with Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of the Lebanese Independent Nasirite Movement — Al-Murabitun, by Louis Faris, Monte Carlo radio correspondent in Damascus; date not given — recorded]

[Text] [Louis Faris] Ibrahim Qulaylat, leader of Al-Murabitun: What occurred yesterday? Exactly what happened?

[Qulaylat] We can say that what occurred yesterday was very surprising at this stage and with respect to the national victories scored by Syria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, the forces of the Palestinian revolution, and the Lebanese forces, as they foiled the 17 May agreement. The surprise was that the events took place in a treacherous manner and at a time when we believed we were allies in the same arena, confronting sectarian and partitioning plans, and also confronting the Zionist enemy's schemes in Lebanon, as this enemy occupies large parts of our territory. The gravity of what occurred yesterday is that the Zionist enemy and forcible removal of the U.S. forces have not been exploited as they should have been on a Lebanese nationalist level, as the Lausanne conference had reiterated, or on the pan-Arab level in order to topple Camp David and restore the legitimate rights of Palestinian armed struggle [as heard].

Yesterday, we were taken by surprise by large groups of fighters, some of whom have not been identified, who attacked certain positions. The seriousness of this is that they attacked some advanced positions including the contact lines where we are fighting at the side of the Amal Movement and Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] within the framework of a strategic alliance. This is where we must pause, study the causes and dimensions, as well as its very grave effects on the course at this stage on the domestic and pan-Arab levels, and the results that this will

have on the alliance with the forces of liberation on the international level.

[Faris] Was there any coordination or a joint committee between you and the Amal Movement, and PSP?

[Qulaylat] There was a joint security committee which was closely linked to the Internal Security Forces. As the representative of the Amal Movement, the PSP, and Al-Murabitun, the security committee carried out its tasks along with the Internal Security Forces. A few days ago, this committee closed down the centers that had been established in Beirut by some who were not present during the fighting against Israel or after the invasion.

[Faris] Some have accused you of being the reason behind the lack of security, and of being behind some kidnappings that took place in Beirut. How do you respond?

[Qulaylat] This is not true. This talk is full of lies and slander. The brother Christians in West Beirut can testify to our firm, practical, and implemental stand. They can also testify that the Al-Murabitun elements have been the impregnable dam in the face of some of the Tartars who entered Beirut on the basis of sectarianism and chauvinism. In our latest stand in the *AL-AFKAR AL-LUBNANIYAH* magazine, we said the Independent Nasirite Movement — Al-Murabitun asks the brother Christians in West Beirut not only to call on the movement to guarantee the security of the society, but also that they must ask us to allow them to participate in defining all future political, security, and social trends that will enable us to emerge from the tribulation and build the future Lebanon.

[Faris] Ibrahim Qulaylat, you are demanding a Christian presence in West Beirut, but they are accusing you of doing the opposite on the ground.

[Qulaylat] Our Christian brothers residing in West Beirut are saying otherwise. Radio Monte Carlo can investigate this point. Our brother Christian patriots who are residing in West Beirut will have the courage to state all the facts. They will point out the many occasions on which the Al-Murabitun Movement confronted plans to forcibly deport our Christian brothers from West Beirut as has happened in other areas outside Beirut. We, as a movement, consider Beirut a national Arab rather than a sectarian stronghold. It is a stronghold for all sects, and for the sake of the future of Lebanon as a democratic state, for all sects on the basis of justice and national balance.

[Faris] What was the extent of the blow that was directed against you yesterday; is it true, as some reports said, that the Al-Murabitun Movement in West Beirut has been liquidated?

[Qulaylat] This was what was rumored yesterday following a treacherous onslaught. But what is taking place today on the ground confirms that Al-Murabitun fighters are tenaciously holding to the land. They have their roots in the land. It will not be easy for some unknown persons to issue decisions to uproot Al-Murabitun from their land, houses, and positions. They will continue to defend their causes. Following the 1982 invasion, the June 1982 war, the Zionist enemy demanded, in a similar formula, the withdrawal of 2,000 Al-Murabitun fighters after the accomplishment of a plot to remove the Palestinian revolution from Beirut. But we did not leave. We continued in Beirut. We rose from the debris. The 6 February upheaval affirmed the return of national and pan-Arab Beirut. I am saying pan-Arab, because I am speaking from a land [Syria] that cosntitutes a pan-Arab dimension. Pan-Arab Beirut, with its pan-Arab revolutionary forces, will continue to confront all hostile forces, headed by the Zionist enemy and United States.

[Faris] You are saying then that the movement still exists in Beirut. Does this mean the fighting will continue in the streets of Beirut between you and the others, or that you have held contacts and that there is room for settling matters?

[Qulaylat] The movement does not just exist in Beirut, but today expresses its existence, roots, presence, and genuineness in the north, Al-Biqa', Al-Iqlim [Kharrub], and Beirut. We regret that this fighting has been imposed on us by those we consider our allies. We wish the fighting were in a unified framework and formula against the Zionist enemy in the south or the secessionist factional forces, which today are advocating factional canton plans.

[Faris] Brother Ibrahim, regarding Beirut in particular, will the fighting continue, or is there room for reconciliation?

[Qulaylat] We are against any fighting within the nationalist and Islamic ranks. The Islamic forces firmly stated their position yesterday in the house of the mufti. His eminence the mufti condemned the treacherous operation. We leave it to you to mention the words which his eminence the mufti of the Republic used in describing the treacherous operation that occurred yesterday. We are for the return of national and pan-Arab consciousness to all ranks, parties, and allies so we can again direct our rifles in the right direction.

[Faris] I understand from what you have said that you are leaving the door open to the Amal Movement and PSP for dialogue and a return of harmony.

[Qulaylat] We and the Amal Movement are continuing to confront non-nationalist and non-pan-Arab plans.

[Faris] Excuse me, Brother Ibrahim, has the Amal Movement participated in the attack on your positions?

[Qulaylat] It was rumored and the news media exaggerated that. But the information and the reports which reached me confirm that the Amal Movement did not in any way participate in yesterday's incidents.

[Faris] You have been here for 2 days during which you held contacts with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and others. What are the present stands, and the current situation?

[Qulaylat] I arrived in Syria yesterday evening before the incident took place. It is natural that I am here in Syria during this fateful situation during which we face several issues on both the Lebanese and pan-Arab levels, especially after Syria's role in the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. It is natural that I hold contacts with my brother Syrian leaders. We will pursue these

contacts not only because of the unexpected incident that took place in Beirut, but also to acquaint ourselves with the Syrian trends in this fateful phase, particularly since it comes after the conclusion of the Lausanne conference. We will also pursue our contacts because Syria constitutes a pan-Arab strategic dimension in the course of our movement facing this current phase.

[Faris] Will Syria mediate between you and the PSP?

[Qulaylat] This mediation is not necessary. The Lebanese people in Beirut can rectify matters by themselves. We are heading toward this objective. However, Syria has its own role and influence due to its alliances. We, as a movement, have confidence in Syria's trend and role in these current hardships that we are facing in Lebanon, on both the internal and external levels.

[Faris] What do you expect to take place in West Beirut: calm or fighting?

[Qulaylat] We expect the forces in Beirut to resort to reason and consciousness, and to accurately re-evaluate the dangers of this present phase in order to halt the fighting and bloodshed, which only benefits the Zionist enemy and its internal allies who support the establishment of sectarian cantons.

[Faris] Can you now return to West Beirut?

[Qulaylat] Naturally, West Beirut is the ground on which I pursue my struggle. During the hard circumstances of the June war, our movement made the decision to fight Israel and not leave Beirut. We remained in this part of the city and fought the enemy, even after the invasion. Our movement is one of the very few movements that remained in Beirut to carry on the confrontation. I do not believe that your question is linked to any facts. However, I arrived in Syria yesterday evening and it was natural to meet with the brothers in the Syrian leadership. I am here on my way to my homeland, Lebanon, and specifically, to Beirut.

[Faris] Why do you think they attacked you?

[Qulaylat] It is hard to predict the aspects and background of this attack. We are currently carefully following up the aspects of this treacherous operation. We will disclose all facts related to this operation when matters become clear, and will declare them to Lebanese, Arab, and international public opinion. I would also like to affirm that this treacherous operation was not purely an emotional or internal one; it was more than that. What took place yesterday confirms that the operation was much more than what any person can imagine. It was much more than the result of differences in views concerning trivial internal matters.

[Faris] Thanks you, Ibrahim Qulaylat.

Al-Huss On Damascus Contacts

NC251803 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1640 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Upon his return this evening from Damascus, [former] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss was asked about the results of the task assigned to him, Malik Salam, and Husayn al-Quwatli, by Lebanese Mufti Hasan Khalid. He said: We met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and discussed various current issues concerning Lebanon, particularly Beirut, in the present delicate circumstances through which the national issue is passing, especially after the Lausanne conference's failure to achieve decisive results.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: Naturally, the security situation in Beirut occupied a major part of the discussions, since we wish to restore stability on the basis of effective security arrangements. In accordance with these arrangements, the Lebanese Army and Internal Security Forces present in West Beirut will assume security responsibilities in an effective and complete manner with the necessary guarantees to prevent any future setbacks.

Prime Minister al-Huss said: We also had talks with Walid Junblatt and his companions on the various aspects of this matter. Nabih Birri was also contacted in this regard. We all agreed on the need to adopt the necessary urgent steps to ensure a return to normalcy. We also agreed on the basic need for maintaining the unity of the Islamic and national ranks, whatever the cost, in view of our and everyone's awareness of the fact that the unity of the Islamic and national position is the target in the present phase, during which the destiny of Lebanon and its people is being determined.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: We have been, still are, and will continue to work indefatigably and relentlessly to emphasize and promote the unity of the Islamic and national position. We shall resist the attempts being made by the enemies of our common cause to drag us into peripheral disputes or clashes that will only destroy our cause and undermine our destiny. We are confident that our noble people have enough vigilance and awareness to avert falling into the trap of sedition that has been set for them.

Upon his return from Damascus, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the other delegation members met with Mufti Khalid and briefed him on the results of the meetings held in the Syrian capital.

Al-Wazzan, Security Men Confer

NC251046 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has stated that he is endeavoring to contain events in West Beirut in coordination with all parties working in this field. He added that his meetings with the commanders of the Internal Security Forces last night and today were intended to investigate the response to his endeavors.

Furthermore, the prime minister met with several West Beirut residents and discussed with them the latest developments and their impact. He stressed the need for calming the atmosphere.

Further Reportage on Situation in West Beirut

PSP Takes Full Control

NC232108 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Our security affairs correspondent reports that the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] forces have taken control of all Al-Murabitun offices in nationalist Beirut following the battles that have taken place in the areas of Abu Shakir, the Voice of Arab Lebanon radio, and Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir Mosque. That area is now under the control of PSP forces.

According to some reports, certain people released yesterday by the PSP following the meeting with His Eminence Mufti Khalid today entered the radio building and booby-trapped it. It should be mentioned here that the PSP yesterday permitted the Internal Security Forces to assume control of the building of the Lebanese National Red Crescent, the main Al-Murabitun headquarters, and the Voice of Arab Lebanon radio as PSP's contribution to the restoration of stability in the area.

PSP sources this evening said the PSP forces are abiding by the cease-fire, which was agreed upon at 2030 today following a long meeting at the residence of his eminence the mufti of the Republic, which was attended by a large number of political and religious leaders.

PSP sources also said the party suffered some casualties, and that it did not use heavy weapons such as artillery in order to safeguard the lives of innocent citizens and the positions of its allies.

According to certain information, Ibrahim Qulaylat [leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement — Al-Murabitun] has involved a number of citizens and Al-Murabitun officials in today's battle after contacting them to assure them that certain quarters support him and that his battle is a success. He asked them to initiate the fighting and raise the confessional aspect to mobilize public opinion in Beirut.

More Actions Against Al-Murabitun

NC241811 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Security reports say that Amal Movement gunmen and Junblattists today continued storming the houses of the Al-Murabitun, whose names were found on lists found at Al-Murabitun's headquarters. Those detained were taken to positions of the Amal Movement and Junblattists. Furthermore, these gunmen killed some of the detainees. Among those killed is (Shawqi Nahid) alias Abu Rabi', the Al-Murabitun military official who was detained last night. Another Al-Murabitun official who was killed during the storming operations in the Al-Fakhani area is Abu Ahmad Harb. Others kidnapped with him in [word indistinct] include Ghazi 'Umar, Salah an-Nasur, and Muhammad Khalid.

Other reports say some Sunnite gunmen arrived in West Beirut from Tripoli to join Al-Murabitun and the Sunnite Popular Resistance, which is led by Abu Kamil.

Islamic Council Takes Over VOAL

NC250821 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd al-Hafiz Qasim, chairman of the Ulemas Association in Beirut, has said the events of last Thursday and Friday in Beirut will not harm the joint struggle. Shaykh Qasim stressed that the Progressive Socialist Party's forces that fought in Beirut last week include fighters from the Sunnite sect.

He said the Islamic Military Council under his chairmanship is taking over the Al-Murabitun's headquarters and the Voice of Arab Lebanon radio, to resume its operation.

Kuwaiti Paper: Al-Jumayyil To Visit Syria 'Soon'

GF251602 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 25 Mar 84 pp 1,18

[Muhammad 'Anan dispatch from Beirut]

[Excerpt] *AS-SIYASAH* has learned that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil will visit Damascus soon to meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and review with him the outcome of the Lausanne conference. Al-Jumayyil will also attempt to reach with Al-Asad a number of security measures that will enhance the cease-fire and make it possible to reopen the airport, the port, and all roads.

Michel Samahah, adviser to the Lebanese president, has visited Damascus to prepare for this visit.

In another development, a reliable source has affirmed that Lebanon has warned that it will sever its relations with any country that supplies arms and military hardware to Lebanese militias.

The Lebanese Government has expressed the intention to ask some countries to stop supplying the Lebanese parties with weapons and shipping lines not to ship any arms consignments to Lebanon. In the event these companies decide not to abide by this, the Lebanese Government will confiscate their ships which carry arms to Lebanon and blacklist their names. The Lebanese Foreign Ministry has prepared a list in this connection that will be distributed to the Lebanese embassies in other countries.

Further on Possible Summit

NC250650 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] In accordance with press reports on the moves that Jean 'Ubayd has been carrying out in Damascus over the past 2 days, it is likely that an Al-Jumayyil-Al-Asad summit will take place soon to be followed by another summit between Al-Jumayyil and Saudi King Fahd. Hence, an envoy will leave for Riyadh to prepare for the latter summit.

Dr Wadi' Haddad, presidential adviser for national affairs, will leave Beirut for Washington today for talks on the outcome of the Lausanne conference.

Reportage on Withdrawal of French Contingent

France's Hernu on Withdrawal

NC240914 Paris AFP in English 0844 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Beirut, March 24 (AFP) — The Lebanese capital and the mountains spent a quiet night for the first time in many weeks after fierce clashes yesterday in West Beirut between Druze and pro-Libyan Sunni Moslem militias. A first toll published here said 17 people, mostly militiamen, were killed and 80 wounded.

Heavy arms fire also broke out yesterday across the demarcation line between the Moslem west and Christian eastern halves of the capital.

But an unannounced truce which set in last night appeared to be holding this morning.

(Meanwhile, in Paris, Defence Minister Charles Hernu announced that the remaining 1,300 French troops left in Beirut after the Multinational Force was disbanded would leave within a week.

(He said the Lebanese authorities were organising their replacements, and stressed that the French contingent would leave "in honour, with its mission accomplished, and with the goodwill and friendship of the Lebanese people in all its parts".

(In its 18 months in Beirut, the contingent lost 86 men and another 100 were wounded.)

Further on Withdrawal

NC250926 Paris AFP in English 0906 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Beirut, March 25 (AFP) — The French contingent of the Multinational Peacekeeping Force began its scheduled withdrawal from Beirut today.

The car ferry *Esterel* took onboard a first convoy of 30 trucks, jeeps, and cars, and was to accommodate 500 troops for the voyage to Marseilles, southern France. The rest of the contingent, around 1,300 men, will leave aboard French navy vessels currently deployed off Beirut, a military source said.

French Marine commandos are covering the evacuation.

France is the final member of the four-nation peacekeeping force to pull out of Beirut.

Seven French Soldiers Wounded

NC241740 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1727 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] The French forces began a partial withdrawal from some of their positions in Beirut. The withdrawal process will be completed by the end of this month. Contacts are currently underway between Lebanese officials and French officers to hand over the French positions to Lebanese forces to be formed for this purpose.

Meanwhile, between 1730 and 1845 today, a number of mortar shells fell in Du Chayla Stadium, wounding seven French soldiers, according to French sources.

Authorities Request French Observers

NC241954 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] An informed source in Beirut has been quoted as saying that the Lebanese authorities have asked for the dispatch of 40 French observers to Beirut to facilitate the task of monitoring the cease-fire. These observers will arrive in Lebanon before the departure of French forces.

Security Committee Meets, Discusses French Withdrawal

Discusses Replacements

NC251136 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Security Arrangements Committee met at 1130 to discuss the security situation and the withdrawal of the French contingent, and who is going to replace them.

Agrees to ISF Replacement

NC261353 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] A report on meetings held by the Security Committee in Beirut today says that all the committee's members have agreed that the Internal Security Forces will replace French troops in all the positions they will evacuate.

A responsible source of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has expressed the PSP's commitment to this decision. The source also warned the sectarian [Phalange] Party against taking advantage of the situation.

Junblatt To Form New Lebanese Opposition Front

JN251856 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpts] Uninterrupted intensive meetings and contacts continued here throughout the last 24 hours. At noon today an agreement was reached on fixing security and stability in West Beirut. According to this agreement, the Socialist armed men will withdraw from the Al-Murabitun Movement's positions which they had occupied earlier, and the responsibility for security and order will be handed over to the Internal Security Forces in cooperation with units from the Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade, which had earlier joined the opposition. This security agreement was announced by [former] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, who stressed the need to preserve the unity of the national and Islamic ranks.

Walid Junblatt said he agrees to this agreement and is committed to the unity of the national and Islamic ranks. He also expressed confidence in His Eminence Mufti Khalid and the Islamic leadership in Beirut.

Al-Murabitun leader Ibrahim Qulaylat told AP that he, too, agrees with today's agreement. He said this formula had been approved at a meeting at the Mufti's office 2 weeks ago in the presence of His Eminence Mufti Khalid and His Eminence Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, in addition to Qulaylat and Progressive Socialist Party representative Anwar al-Fatayiri. Qulaylat announced that Al-Murabitun abides by all the formulas that ensure the welfare of the homeland and the citizens. He declined to attack Walid Junblatt, saying that the stage is fateful and that he will not be dragged to verbal vituperations that do not serve the causes of the homeland.

However, he emphasized that he will return to Beirut as soon as he finishes his consultations in Damascus. He also said the Al-Murabitun Movement will continue its popular, political, and military activity. He disclosed that during the last 2 days contacts were held between him and His Eminence Mufti Khalid and the Islamic delegation that visited Damascus today. He denied asking to meet with Walid Junblatt. He also denied Walid Junblatt's accusations yesterday on cooperation between Al-Murabitun and the Phalange Party. He announced that approximately 2,000 Al-Murabitun Movement fighters are being detained by the Lebanese authorities.

The members of the Islamic delegation as well as Muhsin Dallul, Khalid Junblatt, and Marwan Hamadah left Damascus for Beirut this afternoon to implement the security agreement.

In another development, I have learned that the current contacts and talks in the Syrian capital are also dealing with the subject of fixing security and stability throughout Lebanon and continuing dialogue at the highest level among all disputing factions in order to form a national salvation government in Lebanon.

Moreover, the Lebanese Nationalist Movement's parties held an important meeting in the Progressive Socialist Party's offices in the Syrian capital this evening on the leadership level to discuss a formula on the formation of a new opposition front to replace the National Salvation Front, which collapsed when former President Sulayman Franjiyah, one of its three leaders, decided to walk out of the Front 2 weeks ago. This meeting was attended by the following leaders of the Lebanese parties and forces: Walid Junblatt; 'Asim Qansuh; George Hawi; 'Abd ar-Rahim Murad; In'am Ra'd; and Suhayl Hamadah.

Nabih Birri is still in Damascus, but he did not take part in this meeting. Sulayman Franjiyah left Damascus today after being received this morning by President Hafiz al-Asad.

Birri Refuses To Join

NC252130 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] It was announced tonight in Damascus that a new national movement has been established under the leadership of Walid Junblatt. Its members include 'Asimq Qansu of the Ba'th Party; George Hawi of the Communist Party; In'am Ra'd of the Syrian Nationalists; 'Abd ar-Rahim Murad of the Socialist Union; and Suhayl Humaydah of the Arab Democratic Party.

It was also learned that Nabih Birri refused to participate in this new movement, which replaces the National Salvation Front.

It is worth mentioning that this movement has opened an office in Damascus. It is the same movement that the late Kamal Junblatt formed during the 2-year war. However, no Palestinian official is represented in it now.

Walid Junblatt was quoted as saying that the National Salvation Front no longer exists after the stand adopted by [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah.

Franjiyah in Zgharta After Contacts in Syria

NC260737 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] At 1730 yesterday, [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah and his accompanying delegation arrived in Zgharta from Damascus. They came from Switzerland via Damascus after having participated in the National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne.

In Damascus, Franjiyah held a series of contacts and meetings with Syrian officials — the most important was his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad at 1030 yesterday. This meeting lasted approximately 2 hours. During the meeting, a discussion was held on the work and results of the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne, the situation in the Lebanese arena, and the efforts being exerted to achieve national accord. During the meeting, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad stressed to Franjiyah Syria's determination to continue its role in assisting the Lebanese in their efforts to achieve national accord.

Franjiyah left Damascus yesterday afternoon. He was given an official farewell in the 'Adra area. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' led the delegation of those who came to bid him farewell. After his meeting with the Syrian foreign minister, Franjiyah received at his place of residence in the guest palace Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam with whom he held a 90-minute meeting.

Karami Returns to Tripoli From Lausanne

NC231553 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Former Prime Minister Rashid Karami returned to Tripoli today from Lausanne via Damascus. In a statement he made upon his arrival, Karami spoke about the National Dialogue

Conference discussions. He drew the attention of the citizens of northern Lebanon, particularly the citizens of Tripoli, to the seriousness of the present stage. Karami also asked them to be alert in order to frustrate the designs of the enemies of Lebanon.

Monte Carlo Interviews Former President Sham'un

JN232122 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Interview with former President Camille Sham'un by Monte Carlo radio correspondent George Qurdahi; place and date not given — recorded]

[Text] [George Qurdahi] Your Excellency, there were contradictory opinions on the results and expectations at the conclusion of the Lausanne conference. Some said the conference failed and the situation in Lebanon will once again deteriorate. Others said that half of the conference was a success and the other half a failure. A few expressed optimism after reading the conference resolutions. We would like to know your opinion on this conference and its results.

[Camille Sham'un] In the past, a meeting was held in Cairo. Among those who attended that meeting was the late Riyad as-Sulh. When he returned from the meeting, he was asked about the results of the conference. He said: We scored a negative triumph. This time, and I say this in a serious manner, we ended the Lausanne conference after agreeing that it was a negative success, because a positive success would not have been in the interest of the two parties. It could have been in the interest of one party and detrimental to the other. Then it would have been a catastrophe and not a success. In this way, I believe the Lausanne conference has achieved some success because it has paved the way for future action through the constitutional committee that was formed and which will be given the necessary time to carry out a constitutional action that will be more thoroughly studied than at the Lausanne conference.

[Qurdahi] In your opinion, where did the conference fail?

[Sham'un] The conference was supposed to seek positive results; that is, it was expected to find positive solutions to the existing differences. But as I said before, the positive and just solutions were not possible to achieve. Those solutions, if attained, would have contained certain injustices by one party against the other. That is why the conference preferred the solution that was attained. That solution is the formation of the constitutional committee, granting it a 6 month period to study the issue in a climate that will be less tense than that which prevailed in Lausanne.

[Qurdahi] Your Excellency, is there still hope for implementing the plan for the establishment of cantons or a confederation that you proposed in Lausanne?

[Sham'un] We cling to this plan because I firmly believe it is the solution. As was the case in other parts of the world, including Switzerland and Yugoslavia, had they not resorted to federalism they would have dispersed and lost the opportunity to unite. We, in Lebanon, must study this plan carefully and not reject it just because we are not accustomed to the idea of a federal formula. We must become accustomed to it, and study it carefully. I believe if we do so, the vast majority of parties concerned will accept my viewpoint and agree to the system of federation.

[Qurdahi] Those who followed the work of the Lausanne conference have sensed that the political differences became sectarian differences. Do you beleive a sectarian shift really took place in Lausanne?

[Sham'un] In any case, the political differences are based on sectarian differences. The reality of the differences would not have changed if we had met for a longer time in Lausanne. The differences exist and are on a sectarian basis. We must view these facts and deal with them in a sound manner.

[Qurdahi] Now that former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah has left the National Salvation Front [NSF], will the Lebanese Front coordinate and cooperate with him in the future?

[Sham'un] No one can deny that President Sulayman Franjiyah is a sincere patriot. We hope that in the future, all of us, including President Franjiyah, will be in agreement in order to defend Lebanon as best we can and seek Lebanese solutions that will serve the homeland's interests. I cannot define the extent of his differences with the NSF. However, President Franjiyah acts purely in Lebanon's interest. We are ready to cooperate with him in the full meaning of the word.

[Qurdahi] It is being said that no confernece similar to the Geneva and Lausanne conferences will be held; that is, the younger cadres will be the ones who will conduct the dialogue directly among themselves on Lebanon's future. The Lebanese Forces recently extended an invitation to the PSP and Amal Movement for opening direct negotiations. Walid Junblatt's response was positive. What is your opinion on this development?

[Sham'un] We hope the young men will carry out a fruitful action and assume a large part of the responsibility in serving the Lebanese homeland. We do not object to their adopting positive initiatives to save the situation in Lebanon and build the Lebanon of tomorrow. With the young men's permission, I would like to tell them that while I admire their activities and enthusiasm, they need a lot of experience which can only be acquired through long years in dealing with public affairs. This experience has been gained by the figures whose past enables them to assume their responsibilities and duties.

[Qurdahi] Your Excellency, you met twice with Walid Junblatt in Lausanne. Did you agree on any specific matters, especially those relating to the affairs of the mountain and the return of the evacuees?

[Sham'un] We met twice and also in passing more than twice. The atmosphere of the meeting was one of harmony. We particularly dealt with matters concerning the return of the evacuees to Ash-Shuf. There was agreement on this subject. We agreed on how to arrange the return, and the calm which must prevail henceforth in the Ash-Shuf and 'Alayh areas. We discussed these subjects and other matters pertaining to the working papers presented by the various delegations.

[Qurdahi] Will there be coordination in the future between you and Walid Junblatt regarding Ash-Shuf?

[Sham'un] I hope there will be coordination, because without it, we will not be able to guarantee the restoration of normalcy in Ash-Shuf.

[Qurdahi] Before President Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to Damascus, you threatened to boycott the Lebanese regime if it abrogated the 17 May agreement. The agreement was abrogated, but you did not carry out your threat. You also met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Do you still maintain the same attitude toward Syria, or are you now reassured about the Syrian role in Lebanon?

[Sham'un] First of all, I objected to the abrogation of the 17 May agreement not out of love of that agreement, but because this measure did not achieve any results, whether with regard to the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, or with regard to the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from northern Lebanon. I believe it was a somewhat hurried action. At any rate, this action has already taken place. When it took place, I felt it would be in the interest of the country not to adopt a negative stand, but to attend the Lausanne meeting. I believe the circumstances that developed later justified my decision to attend the Geneva [as heard] conference in view of the role I played at that conference. As for the Syrian role in the conference, the Syrian envoy Khaddam contributed positively toward solving the differences that occurred during the long discussions in Lausanne. Khaddam did not attempt to pressure any side in favor of another.

[Qurdahi] After Lausanne, which was preceded by the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, how do you view the Israeli position in Lebanon, and do you think Israel will accept the Syrian peace in Lebanon, if we may correctly say so?

[Sham'un] We are neither seeking a Syrian peace nor an Israeli peace, but a Lebanese peace. We are not bound to preserve Israeli or Syrian interests, but are bound to preserve Lebanese interests. While preserving all the Lebanese interests, we are ready to deal with our Syrian brothers and also the Israelis.

[Qurdahi] Is it possible to once again depend on the United States and the West after what has happened, Your Excellency?

[Sham'un] It is wrong to say we depend on any state. Friendly states may or may not help. We must depend on ourselves. If help comes from any friendly state, we will welcome such help.

[Qurdahi] Are you optimistic, Your Excellency, on the possibility of forming a national unity government as agreed upon in Lausanne?

[Sham'un] This is not impossible. This is possible. It lacks a bit of goodwill and courage.

[Qurdahi] My final question, Your Excellency: By virtue of your position, great experience, and known farsightedness, how do you see the next phase in Lebanon, and do you believe the cease-fire agreement will take hold on the ground?

[Sham'un] The cease-fire is a very basic thing, and everything depends on it. If the cease-fire continues, I believe we will be able to proceed to the next phase. However, if it does not hold, we will not be able to move a single step forward. Therefore, the first condition is the cease-fire. After the cease-fire, I sincerely believe the constitutional committee that was formed in Lausanne will be able to carry out constructive work in drafting the constitution. As I said, one of the plans that we will insist on after thoroughly explaining it is the federal [ittihadi] plan.

[Qurdahi] Thank you, Your Excellency.

Salam Deputy on Developments, Lausanne Talks

NC251333 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Muhammad Al-Mashnuq, a member of former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam's delegation to the National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne, has said it is imperative to watch the current military situation so that we can be certain whether the conference's talks have succeeded or failed. Al-Mashnuq outlined the negative and positive aspects of the conference in an interview to be published tomorrow in the *MONDAY MORN ING* magazine.

He said the situation along the contact lines will define the balance [as heard], but warned against anticipating quick results.

Al-Mashnuq drew up the process of the settlement agreed upon, and said it will take from 2 weeks to 1 month for calm to be restored, after which the constitutional committee that the conference decided to set up will convene to draw up the constitutional framework of the future Lebanon. If the military and political situations stabilize, it will allow the constitutional committee to make progress enabling the formation of a national unity government.

Al-Mashnuq said the best thing he observed at the Lausanne conference was the earnest desire to end the fighting and amend the Constitution. He added: The worst thing at the conference was that it ignored the question of the south in the final statement, the appearance of some community feelings, and the method of political bargaining.

Christian Group in South Issues Statement

NC251639 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] The Free Christian Grouping [At-Tajammu' Al-Masihi Al-Hurr] has adopted the following seven principles:

1. Adherence to Lebanon as a homeland within its internationally recognized borders and affirmation of its sovereignty and independence.

2. Adherence to coexistence with an open attitude toward all the civilized communities comprising Lebanese society.

3. Support for the Free Lebanon Army, and calling on all the Lebanese of all communities to join this Army and rally around its new command.

4. Affirmation of the comprehensive Christian-Israeli relations, and of the full cooperation between the Lebanese and Israeli people in order to achieve the desired peace in the area.

5. Rejection of all forms of foreign hegemony, especially Syrian hegemony, which aims to suppress independent Lebanese political decisionmaking.

6. The Free Christian Grouping is an indivisible part of the Lebanese Christian people, resident and expatriate, which embody humanity, freedom, and dignity.

7. We will work to develop our areas by adopting all the necessary measures and by using all resources.

The Free Christian Grouping held a general conference today in Jazzin [in southern Lebanon]. The conference was headed by Abbot Bulus Nu'man, and was attended by Bishop Ignatius Ra'd; Deputy Farid Sarhal; Nazar Najarian, commander of the Lebanese Forces in the southern area; representatives of the Free Lebanon Army; and the heads of the Phalange Party branches in southern Lebanon.

Mufti Khalid on Lausanne Talks, Country's Problem
NC251118 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Republic, has said that the National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne could not solve intricate problems that have existed since independence in 10 days.

In an interview to be published tomorrow in the *MONDAY MORNING* magazine, Mufti Khalid said the advocates of one Lebanon have not sought partition but a radical solution. He added that secularism was the solution for a European problem, the purpose of which was to exclude the church from ruling and administering. However, the problem in Lebanon is the opposite. It is summed up in the statesmen's interference in religious affairs. Therefore, what is required is the abolition of political sectarianism.

Mufti Khalid said the guarantees are freedom and justice. The guarantees must be to citizens, not to sects, and the affiliation must be to the homeland, not to sects. He affirmed that the advocates of Lebanon's integrity will continue to be stronger than those favoring partition. Perhaps that would lead to another grinding war if the advocates of partition resorted to and relied upon Israel, which is a more likely matter.

Concerning the Shi'ite Muslims influx in Beirut, Mufti Khalid said: The capital is open to all Lebanese. We do not believe any Lebanese area should be monopolized by one community. Mufti Khalid added: The Shi'ite Muslims have rejected the command of the Army, which was proposed to them in Lausanne, because Lebanon's integrity is the only thing acceptable to the Muslims for this homeland. We have no knowledge of an Islamic stance in Lausanne other than the eagerness to safeguard Lebanon's integrity, democracy, and Arabism.

The mufti of the Republic expects that a spiritual leaders' conference will be convened within 2 weeks.

Explosions, Gunfire Reported in Sidon
NC232030 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reported that two explosions took place in Sidon at 2000 and 2030, respectively. These were followed by bursts of gunfire at the southern entrance of the town. Two Israeli armored personnel carriers were seen roaming the highway while foot patrols combed the area and cut the Sidon-Tyre Road.

Al-Asad Grants Interview to TIME Magazine

JN232014 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received this evening the U.S. *TIME* magazine group headed by Henry Grunwald, editor in chief. Other members of the group are: Ray Cave, managing editor; Richard Duncan, assistant managing editor and head of the correspondents department; Ronald Fellini, director of the Middle East desk; and William Stewart, Middle East correspondent.

The president made a press statement to the group in which he answered their questions on several matters pertaining to the Middle East situation.

Republican Palace Spokesman on Al-Asad's Health

JN241738 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] In response to recent rumors about the deterioration of Syrian President al-Asad's health, a Syrian Republican Palace spokesman asserted that President al-Asad's health is very good and that he is exercising his daily duties as usual. The Syrian official spokesman added that all rumors about the president's health are lies and fabrications concocted by those on whom Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, has inflicted well known defeats.

The spokesman also pointed out that President Hafiz al-Asad received yesterday a press mission from the American magazine *TIME* and gave a detailed, important statement, which will be published in Sunday's issue. He also said that Al-Asad received the French philosopher Roger Garaudy.

Al-Asad, Jumayyil Hold Telephone Conversation

JN242130 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] A telephone conversation was held between President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. During this contact, the conversation dealt with the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne. The Lebanese president thanked Syria for the active efforts it had exerted during the conference.

President Hafiz al-Asad stressed to the Lebanese president that Syria will continue to play this role. He added: We must all cooperate to achieve a reconciliation that confirms Lebanon's freedom, indpendence, and sovereignty. The two sides agreed to resume the contacts at a later time.

Al-Asad Contacts Al-Qadhdhafi on Arab Affairs

JN260706 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Last night, President Hafiz al-Asad contacted Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in Libya. They discussed issues pertaining to the region and a meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and Col al-Qadhdhafi in the near future.

Lebanon's Sulayman Franjiyah Arrives 24 Mar

JN241449 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah and his delegation arrived in Damascus this afternoon from Geneva. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar'. The Lebanese leader and his delegation then drove in an official motorcade to the guest palace in Damascus, where Ash-Shar' welcomed him and wished him a happy stay in Damascus.

Al-Asad Receives Former President

JN251323 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad at 1030 this morning received Former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah.

Talks during the meeting focused on the activities and results of the Lebanese national accord conference in Lausanne, the situation in the Lebanese arena, and the efforts for achieving national reconciliation. The president stressed Syria's determination to continue its role to help the Lebanese brothers in their moves to achieve national reconciliation.

Leaves Damascus 25 Mar

JN251535 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] During his reception of former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah today, President Hafiz al-Asad asserted Syria's determination to continue its role in assisting the Lebanese brothers to realize national accord.

Franjiyah left Damascus this afternoon after a 2-day visit to Syria.

Lebanese Figures Arrive for Talks 24 Mar

JN241857 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] A Lebanese delegation representing the Sunni community in Beirut left for Damascus this afternoon. The delegation is led by former Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, and Husayn al-Quwatli, director of the Islamic Al-Fatwa department.

Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri also arrived in Damascus. He may hold a meeting with Al-Murabitun leader Ibrahim Qulaylat who is still in Damascus. Walid Junblatt, currently in London on a private visit, is not likely to return to Damascus in the near future, because he will visit Paris to meet with President

Francois Mitterrand, according to reports that have leaked from Lebanese Socialist Party sources.

Reports from Beirut say that the security situation deteriorated on the traditional fighting axes in the mountains and Beirut this afternoon. A number of missiles fell on Beirut's eastern quarters.

Meanwhile, from a political viewpoint, nothing worth mentioning has been reported about the return to Beirut of all those who participated in the Lausanne dialogue conference.

Today, President Amin al-Jumayyil's adviser Jean 'Ubayd left for Damascus on a mission believed to be connected with a possible visit there by the Lebanese president and a meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad in the near future,

On another level, informed Syrian sources said that an important delegation representing the Lebanese Front will visit Damascus next week.

Khaddam Receives Junblatt, Others

JN251327 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam at 0930 this morning received Salim al-Huss, former Lebanese prime minister; Malik Slam, former Lebanese minister; and Husayn al-Quwatli, secretary of the Mufti's office in Lebanon. The meeting was joined at 1100 by Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, accompanied by Marwan Hamadah, Khalid Junblatt, and Muhsin Dallul.

During the meeting, talks centered on the results of the Lebanese National Reconciliation Conference in Lausanne, the security situation in Beirut and the situation in fraternal Lebanon. Arrangements were made for controlling the security situation in Beirut and removing the causes of tension.

Meetings, Activities Reported

JN251722 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam today received Dr Salim al-Huss, former Lebanese prime minister; Malik Salam, former Lebanese minister; and Husayn al-Quwatli, secretary of the Mufti's office in Lebanon. Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP]; Marwan Hamadah; Khalid Junblatt; and Muhsin Dallul joined the meeting.

After the meeting, Dr Salim al-Huss made a statement to the journalists in which he said: The security situation in West Beirut was the prominent subject of the talks, proceeding from our concern about regaining stability in accordance with effective security arrangements. In accordance with these arrangements, the internal security forces and the Lebanese Army forces which are positioned in West Beirut will be in charge of security with guarantees to prevent security deterioration in the future.

The former Lebanese prime minister noted that during his stay in Damascus he held talks with Walid Junblatt and his party leaders about the various aspects of this subject. He said that he contacted Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri in this respect, and that all agreed on the need to adopt the necessary moves to straighten out matters. Al-Huss added: All decisions agreed on the basic stand; namely, the need to preserve the unity of the national and Islamic ranks, regardless of anything else. This is because the unity of the national and Islamic stand is the target in this period in which the future of Lebanon and its people will be decided.

After the meeting, Walid Junblatt made a statement in which he said: Agreement was reached that the PSP will withdraw its armed elements from the areas which have been controlled, and that the internal security forces and units from the National Army — that is the 6th Brigade — will replace them in order to preserve the unity of the national and Islamic ranks. He said: We trust the wise leadership of Dr Salim al-Huss and his colleagues under the guidance of Hasan Khalid, mufti of the republic.

Dr Salim al-Huss, Muhsin Dallul, Fu'ad Salman, Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt left Damascus this afternoon.

Further on Damascus Activities

JN251413 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Intensive meetings and contacts were held last night and today in the wake of Walid Junblatt's return to the Syrian capital yesterday evening, where he held a meeting with the leaders of the Lebanese opposition who are seeking to mediate between him and Al-Murabitun leader Ibrahim Qulaylat. However, Junblatt has categorically refused to meet with Qulaylat.

In the meantime, it was officially announced that a telephone contact took place between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Amin al-Jumayyil, during which discussion focused on the Lausanne conference. President al-Jumayyil thanked President al-Asad for the active efforts exerted by Syria during the conference, while President al-Asad reiterated to President al-Jumayyil that Syria will continue with this role. The Syrian president added: We must cooperate together to attain a national accord that will reaffirm Lebanon's freedom, independence and sovereignty. During this telephone contact, it was also agreed to pursue the contacts between the two presidents in future.

Upon arrival in Damascus, Junblatt strongly attacked the Al-Murabitun movement. When asked whether the opposition intends to form a new front that will replace the National Salvation Front which collapsed in the wake of former President Sulayman's Franjiyah's departure from it, Junblatt said: It is too early to say anything about this, and consultations must be

held with Nabih Birri and the other allies — and this will not take place in public.

It has been noted that Junblatt described the Lausanne conference results as poor. However, the Socialist leader opened the door to dialogue between himself and the Lebanese Forces when he said that there is no longer any use in holding a dialogue with rigid and obsolete mentalities, and that in order to render the dialogue a success one must deal with the young forces that are in reality effectively working in the Lebanese arena.

We would like to mention that this morning President Hafiz al-Asad received former President Sulayman Franjiyah, while Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri arrived in Damascus at noon today. In the meantime, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam was receiving a delegation of Sunnite leaders from West Beirut comprised of Salim al-Huss, Malik Salam and Husayn al-Quwatli. Discussion dealt with the situation in West Beirut.

Later, Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri joined the meeting. Following this meeting, Walid Junblatt told the press: We discussed the political and security situation in West Beirut. Agreement was reached that the Progressive Socialist Party will withdraw its armed elements from the areas it has been controlling in West Beirut, and that internal security forces and units from the National Army — that is, the 6th Brigade — will replace them to preserve the unity of the national and Islamic ranks. Junblatt added: We trust the wise leadership of Dr Salim al-Huss and his colleagues under the guidance of the mufti of the republic, Shaykh Hasan Khalid. These leaders will prevent the sectarian groups in West Beirut and the Lebanese arena from undermining the nationalist rank. In reply to a question on the possibility of his meeting with Ibrahim Qulaylat, Junblatt answered sharply: This has been completely ruled out.

On the other hand, we have learned that a meeting was held yesterday evening which was attended by Walid Junblatt, Salim al-Huss, Malik Salam, Husayn al-Quwatli, 'Asim Qansuh and Marwan Hamadah, and that this meeting was held in the presence of two of President Amin al-Jumayyil's advisers, Michel Samahah and Jean 'Ubayd. Michel Samahah arrived in Damascus yesterday evening, while Jean 'Ubayd has been in Damascus for the past 3 days. He held two meetings with Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. A well-informed Lebanese source has stated that contacts are underway also among all the parties to form a national salvation government in Lebanon that will succeed Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan's government.

At noon today, Khaddam received Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri after Al-Hariri had met with Salim al-Huss, Malik Salam and Husayn al-Quwatli. Al-Hariri earlier met with Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt, and agreed with them on the new formula for solving the problems in West Beirut.

Salim al-Huss, Malik Salam, Husayn al-Quwatli, Muhsin Dallul, Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt will leave for Beirut later today to implement the agreement that was reached on the security solution in West Beirut, and on the replacement of the armed elements and the militias by the internal security forces and units from the 6th Brigade.

A short while ago, former Prime Minister Salim al-Huss made positive and optimistic statements in this respect.

Results of Lausanne Conference Reviewed

JN241444 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The second Lebanese National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne has ended with results that may not have completely achieved the expectations of the Lebanese sides whoeagerly aspire for national accord and a national union government, and the expectations of the Lebanese citizens who yearn for peace, calm, stability, and security. The results may also not have achieved all that Syria wanted from the conference. This has prompted the outside forces defeated in Lebanon to immediately launch psychological warfare to make the Lebanese and the world believe that the abandonment of the U.S. and Israeli options has not led and cannot lead to solving Lebanon's problems or to pursuing the course of its security and peace, and that the Syrian option, as they call it —that is, the option of the Lebanese nationalist stand and Arab affiliation —has not led and will not lead to security, peace, stability, and national accord in Lebanon.

It is natural for those defeated in Lebanon to resort to every means within their power to prevent it from progressing on the path of national accord and the national union government, and, consequently, on the path of security, peace, and stability. This is because Lebanon's progress on this path does away with their dreams and hopes, and buries their plans in Lebanon and the region. What the U.S. fleets, planes, and Marines, and the Israeli invasion of Lebanon have all failed to achieve will certainly not be achieved by psychological warfare based on instigation, agitation, and lies.

The Israeli invasion of Lebanon brought destruction, ruin, bloodshed, occupation, and incitement of the Lebanese against one another. It also sowed the seeds of partition and revived Zionist dreams to annex southern Lebanon, which is rich in water, to the Jewish state. The U.S. interference in Lebanon's internal affairs brought civil war and divisions, and political, military, and moral support for the Israeli occupation. The Israeli and U.S. options fell in Lebanon and no power can resurrect them.

The fall of the Israeli and U.S. options was essentially brought about by the Lebanese themselves who discovered that the United States has no credibility and that there can be no dependence on the enemy. The path chosen by Lebanon by affirming its Arab affiliation; abrogating the U.S.-Israeli agreement to be imposed on Lebanon; and cooperating with Syria was in fact the Lebanese national option. The Lebanese can only agree on what unites them and preserves their entity and institutions. What unites them is not the Israeli occupation or the U.S. intervention, but the concern about Lebanon's independence, the unity of its territory and people, its Arab affiliation, its role in its Arab environs, and its relations with Syria as well as the concern for equality and justice among the Lebanese and the repudiation of the slogan of victor and vanquished, master and slave.

What is in Lebanon's interest is definitely in Syria's. There is no contradiction between Lebanese national interests on the one hand and Syrian and Arab national interests on the other. Therefore, Syria stands strongly on Lebanon's side in its efforts to achieve national accord, a national union government, peace, security, stability, and the unity of the homeland and the people. Syria will continue to strongly support Lebanon with all the means in its power. Lebanon strengthens with Syria, and weakens with the United States and Israel. The steps which have been achieved are only the beginning and not the end of the course. Those who expected miraculous solutions from Lausanne are not living in the world of reality. And those who lost hope after Lausanne are also remote from reality. Nothing calls for pessimism. What unites the Lebanese, all the Lebanese, is stronger, deeper, and more viable than what divides them at present.

Commentary Calls for Cease-Fire in Lebanon

JN251742 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It was natural that consultations, meetings and contacts would continue between Syria and the Lebanese leaders at all levels to continue the implementation of the agreements reached in the last two rounds of the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference.

Yesterday, a contact took place between President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil on the results of the Lebanese Natinal Dialogue Conference. President al-Jumayyil praised the active efforts Syria had exerted during the conference. President Hafiz al-Asad asserted that Syria will continue to play this role, and to work to achieve Lebanese national accord. This matter will emphasize the independence, sovereignty and freedom of that fraternal country.

The truth is that Syria is fully aware that achieving this accord is the only way out of the fraternal country's crisis, which has caused the death of tens of thousands of its sons, and from which all the Lebanese have suffered. Syria announced through its leader Al-Asad that achieving the national accord is Syria's strategic objective, and that it realizes the existence of difficulties and obstacles on the path to this objective. However, Syria believes in achieving this objective.

This situation requires exerting further efforts, being more patient, and dealing with all problems with persistence. This is because the difficulties and problems which obstruct the national accord are not accidental, but are the consequences of the 9-year war which has produced many dimensions that cannot be ignored or bypassed. Therefore, in order to tackle these problems and difficulties, they must be confined and contained. A cease-fire is required within a comprehensive security plan which all parties must respect and adhere to. This cease-fire agreement will prepare an atmosphere of understanding and dialogue with less tension and more positiveness and objectivity.

It is obvious that Syria is exerting all efforts and potentials to achieve this objective [cease-fire], as it has been doing since the beginning of the Lebanese war. With its efforts and sacrifices, Syria was able to stop the fighting, and to spread security and appeasement in the fraternal country. Today, Syria is more determined to achieve this objective in order to reach national accord. Despite all this, Syria will not hesitate to discuss the reality of the problem. This is because achieving accord requires the Lebanese brothers to be more aware of their responsibilities; to rise above the wounds of the tragedy; to be free from complications and sensitivity; to remove the feelings of narrow fanaticism and affiliation; and to be loyal to their homeland. The Lebanese brothers are the ones concerned about solving their problems and achieving accord. Syria is also concerned about helping them to achieve national accord.

Syria is the twin brother of Lebanon. Syria wants Lebanon to achieve what it really wants. Throughout the past 9 years, Syria has proven its credibility, and has supported its words with it deeds. It proved that it is above the rumors and the campaigns of slander and designs disseminated by the enemies of Syria and Lebanon. Syria will remain as the Lebanese brothers want it to be. It is a Syria of Arabism and struggle; a Syria of sacrifice and giving; and a Syria of Al-Asad.

Israeli Parties Called 'Two Faces of One Coin'

JN241017 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Text] In its page two "Spotlights" column, the newspaper *ATH-THAWRAH* discusses the real dimensions of the decision to dissolve the Knesset and hold early elections. It indicates that the Zionist policy will be the same whether the Labor Party or the Likud coalition assumes power.

The paper says: Everyone agrees that the Zionist entity's recent political crisis, which led to the Knesset's dissolving itself pending early elections following 4 days of argument, bargaining, and outbidding, is a real reflection of the internal picture of the Zionist entity, exposing its nature and that of the acute disputes among its leaders and the depth of the crises shaking this entity and tearing it to pieces — crises resulting from the policy of militarism, expansion, and aggression against the Arab territory.

It is natural for disputes and divisions among the various Zionist blocs to take this form and be marked by sharpness and exchange of accusations. Each side is holding the other responsible for the serious deterioration of social and economic conditions, in which the inflation rate rose to almost 300 percent, and for the repercussions of the setbacks and abject failure of the Zionist policy.

Regarding the real reason for these disputes and divisions, *ATH-THAWRAH* says: The difficult strategic impasse in which Israel found itself about two years after its barbaric invasion of Lebanon and the recent dramatic developments in the Lebanese arena is represented in the triumph of the nationalist forces and the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. Also, the scores of Zionist soldiers who fell and are still falling dead or wounded in Lebanon without any result, and the millions of dollars that invasion cost as a result of the continued occupation of the south

have all left their print and reflection on the entire Zionist society in a manner which hastened the explosion of the recent political crisis, turning it into a fait accompli and a logical outcome of the social, economic, and military situation.

In conclusion, *ATH-THAWRAH* says: Whatever the case is, it is impossible for man to understand how the current battle can help cure all these crises or solve the Israeli Army's involvement in southern Lebanon. However, as Arabs we must not forget that regardless of the shape of the new Zionist government, it will not be at all different from the previous one vis-a-vis the trend and policy of aggression and expansion. The Labor and Likud Parties are only two faces of one coin.

Commentary Warns of New Israeli, U.S. Aggression

JN231443 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: The United States is currently talking about the retaliation it has prepared to avenge its political failure. Syria is certain tobe subjected to this retaliation because the United States holds it responsible for the frustration caused to U.S. diplomacy in both the Lebanese and Middle East arenas. The United States does not conceal the role which Israel will play in overhauling U.S. policy in the region, especially after the U.S. 6th Fleet's artillery failed to psychologically influence the Lebanese masses or to influence the Syrian stand and its cohesion with the Lebanese people's will.

Events have taught us that Israel is the U.S. reserve in the region and that it plays its role through aggression and weapons. But the Israelis, whose hands reach into every corner in the White House, want something in return for this role they are preparing themselves for. They want to cross into all Arab territories under U.S. cover. Thus, from this point comes U.S. diplomacy's concentration on establishing what is called the front of Arab moderates for use as another U.S. reserve to serve the joint strategy of Washington and Tel Aviv. It is self-evident that Israel's aspirations will agree with the desires of what is called Arab moderation so long as the United States gives orders to both sides and they obey, and so long as the Arab side, which adheres to the U.S. trend, only sees what the United States permit it to see.

Israel does not deny it is preparing for a comprehensive war and that any new war in the region will take place by a U.S. decision. The strategic alliance accords between the United States and Israel were concluded to serve war and to support U.S. aspirations, among which is one that is called Arab moderation, and also to support Israel's fait accompli policy in the occupied Arabterritories — a policy which the Arabs must approve and recognize. To ensure the results and to make sure that the U.S. military front will not be aborted as the U.S. diplomatic front was, it is evident that the moves of the U.S. Administration are comprehensive and include several parties, such as European parties trying to restore their colonialist glory by participating with the United States in any invasion made by U.S. soldiers, whether in Chad, Sudan, or the Arab Gulf and sea.

The logic which presently dominates the U.S. mentality centers on retaliating for U.S. failure in Lebanon through military action. This logic coincides with the present political trends aimed at expanding the circle of Arab submission by striking at Syria — the Arab power that prevents the Arab defeatists from declaring their submissiveness to and open apostasy of Arabism and Arab rights. For this reason, the Sudan incidents were fabricated and the Egyptian regime's moves were taken. It is for the same reason that the U.S. Presidential envoy began his tour of Israel and the capitals of Arab renunciation.

However, despite all these preparations and the multiplicity of parties directly or through their defeatism supporting Israel's coming war, there still remains the following question: Have these parties never considered that Syria could not have adhered to its stand and trend had it not been convinced of its ability to retaliate and transform any aggression against it into a war that is more than comprehensive?

Syria has a certain strategy as the aggressors have their own strategies. Syria has friendships as Israel has alliances. What is greater than this though, is that Syria raises the challenge in the name of the Arab masses and through their support. Therefore, our steadfast country will remain the most capable party of making a decision and realizing the Arab will in cohesion with the well-established pan-Arab ideology.

Housing Minister Darwish Dies of Heart Attack

JN251900 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The prime minister's office has announced that Ahmad Salim Darwish, minister of housing and utilities, died of a heart attack this afternoon.

Shamir on Political Aspects of Knesset Vote

TA231928 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1840 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Yoram Ronen in the prime minister's office; date not given — videotaped]

[Text] [Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, today, when early elections are a fait accompli, the question is whether it was not possible to have prevented the explosion in the Knesset yesterday, when the gap between the Alignment's position — that the election date should be the end of July — and the Likud's — favoring September or October — is after all not that big?

[Shamir] It is true that the gap is not all that large, still the dates that are proposed are important for the election campaign itself, and it is no secret that we do not at all want to engulf the people and the country in bitter internal strife. If forced, we wanted to delay the campaign as far as possible so that we would be able to improve the matters we wanted to improve within a period of a few months, and not harm the efforts we have already undertaken to improve the economic situation.

[Ronen] At this point, I could quote Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres's remarks, when he asked you what you could do in 6 additional months beyond what you failed to do in the first 6 months?

[Shamir] I think we have done a lot in the past months as well. I have no doubt that we will continue to do just as much in the next few months, despite the election campaign, because as I said — and here allow me to quote from my own statements — we will continue to conduct the state's affairs as necessary, even in the days of the election campaign.

[Ronen] Mr Shamir, did Dr Burg not have a say in the fact that you insisted on not holding elections in July or June?

[Shamir] No. Although we took all the coalition partners into consideration, it was not the decisive matter. Actually, the real election campaign begins about 2 months prior to the election date, which is why it is important. We did need the necessary time to pursue our planned efforts, and it would been good — and will be good — if we can launch the election campaign in July or August, so that we will be able to go to elections in the fall.

[Ronen] So you think this will be the date — September or October?

[Shamir] I do not know this precisely at the moment. We will try to agree on a date that is suitable to us. If not, I presume we will reach some sort of agreement.

[Ronen] Mr Shamir, when did it become clear to you that Menahem Begin would not come to the Knesset yesterday?

[Shamir] It did not matter. Actually, the whole thing is that in our coalition, a government sometimes depends on individual votes, or a handful of votes — one or two — or relies on the whims and caprices of some coalition faction, no matter how small it may be. Therefore we ourselves thought about holding early elections to change this state of affairs.

[Ronen] Would you have done that even without TAMI's initiative?

[Shamir] Certainly. We thought about declaring elections in a few months, or to start this entire campaign around winter, or the fall, in order to really put an end or change the existing state of affairs in which the government depends on passing phenomena that are the outcome of a coalition based on a very narrow margin.

[Ronen] Allow me for one more minute to go back to Menahem Begin: Because this is the situation and there is a dependence on one or two votes, would it not have been better if Menahem Begin had resigned from the Knesset and made it easier for you to conduct the next moves in the Knesset?

[Shamir] I cannot determine that, but there was no need for him to come yesterday, because his vote would not have changed anything.

[Ronen] Mr Shamir, why did you support Roni Milo's suggestion that a secret ballot be held on early elections — a proposal which many regarded as an abasement of the Knesset?

[Shamir] First of all, to the best of my recollection, this was not Roni Milo's proposal. It was an idea broached by certain people, and there is an argument over this, whether it is parliamentary or not, whether it is democratic or undemocratic. After all, even in the Knesset there is such as a thing as a secret ballot. It exists, and is just as democratic as the other modes of voting.

[Ronen] But not on an issue such as early elections?

[Shamir] Precisely. So there are all sorts of procedures, and in some parliaments this voting system is used more often, in some parliaments it is used less, but the fact and proof is that the attorney general ruled that it is is legal to employ this method. Furthermore, I do not understand why the Alignment was struck with such fear all of a sudden. What did they have to fear?

[Ronen] So why did you fear an open vote?

[Shamir] We had no fear; we knew the results in advance. therefore I do not understand why there should be fear that a secret ballot might yield results different from an open vote. Perhaps this is an indication of weakness.

[Ronen] Mr Prime Minister, last week 'Ezer Weizman declared the establishment of his party. Are you sorry that he did not return to the fold of Herut and the Likud?

[Shamir] I was sorry when he left. I regretted the emergence of differences between us. But this, too, is a natural occurrence, and in every election campaign there are certain addenda and unexpected phenomena which nonetheless do not alter the natural flow of the parliamentary struggle, the political battle, between the two large blocs. This is how it was in the past; and this is how it will be this time as well. His joining this campaign will not

change the main fight that will be between us and the Alignment.

[Ronen] You said earlier that your government has had achievements, and will have still more. Yet the rate of inflation has nearly doubled in the past 6 months; and one cannot envision an arrangement for Lebanon. Do you still think there will be some sort of arrangement before the elections?

[Shamir] I do not know when an arrangement will be made, whether this will happen before the elections. This is possible. We are working toward arrangements and are doing all sorts of things that bring us closer to the security arrangements we are interested in.

[Ronen] Mr Shamir, Minister Sharon has already announced that he will compete with you for the post of prime minister. Mr David Levi has also not ruled out this possibility. Will you try to talk them out of it so that you can appear united facing the elections?

[Shamir] I am not dealing with this now. We must do a lot to organize the election campaign. I am convinced that internal contests will not help us in this war, and I assume they will not abound. I am convinced that if they occur, they will disappear very shortly and we will face this campaign with our ranks united.

[Ronen] But you will not try to persuade Sharon and Levi?

[Shamir] No. I think they themselves realize what the situation is and will do everything necessary to have us win this war.

[Ronen] Finally, Mr Prime Minister, your critics have claimed that you do not show sufficient determination, and as someone wrote, that you want to please everyone. To prove this, even the Knesset vote yesterday is pointed out, with people contending that you did not show enough determination to bring about a united position of the entire coalition.

[Shamir] I do not know who has been saying this. Of course all kinds of things could be said, but a coalition has certain rules to abide by, and the management of a coalition requires taking its various components into account. What counts in the final analysis is the results. And these will be the outcome of the election war which we are entering with no great enthusiasm on my part — it is no secret that I am not eager to see Jews fight each other. However, if necessary — and sometimes it is necessary to do so in democratic life — we will do this firmly, using all the required and desired means, and achieve success and a victory.

Comments on Weizman, Egypt

TA241107 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer on 23 March; place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Schiffer] Mr Prime Minister, the election campaign is now on the horizon. Will it be a clean campaign or will accusations be traded over scandals such as the Levinson affair [in which a senior Bank Hapoalim executive closely linked to the Labor Party committed suicide following allegations of financial wrongdoing], as has been already hinted?

[Shamir] I hope that once the actual election campaign starts — and it will probably be not long before the date of the elections — it will be free of calumnies, and it will be to the point and factual while concentrating on the most important and decisive national issues.

[Schiffer] This week TAMI laid an ambush that triggered the vote to hold early elections. Do you personally feel any rancor because of this? How do you feel about Aharon Abu-Hatzera's presenting you with a fait accompli?

[Shamir] This is not a matter of feelings, this is the nature of coalition governments and is the way our political life is conducted. This system allows small parties — and at times it also allows individual Knesset members — to determine important and decisive processes. This is why I think this should be changed to some extent and that certain amendments should be introduced. Of course, we will not deal with this during the election campaign.

[Schiffer] This week 'Ezer Weizman announced the formation of a new list. In a telephone call to you, he called for a fair election campaign that does not include — I don't imagine — this or any other kind of statements. 'Ezer Weizman also said that he would not lend a hand to a government responsible for the death of 600 boys in the war in Lebnaon.

[Shamir] Well, I was not happy about those remarks or the tone with which they were made. It was strange to hear them from a man who has participated in many Israeli wars, in which many Israeli boys were killed. Throughout the years, both before and after the State of Israel was founded, we have paid a high price in human lives; the number of casualties was never an issue in politics. We never counted the number of casualties in public and used it as an argument to persuade or to blame anybody. I was surprised and I hope that this will not recur.

[Schiffer] Mr Prime Minister, when you begin the election campaign and you have to present the government's political achievements — let us take the peace treaty with Egypt as an example — how will you present this to the electorate?

[Shamir] I think this is one of the most important achievements in Israel's relations with its neighbors. It is a fact that the Likud governments, particularly the first government of Mr Begin, brought about this revolutionary change in the life of the State of Israel. This peace treaty is complex and entails problems but it determined a most important fact: There is peace between Israel and the largest neighboring Arab country.

[Schiffer] I would like to ask you a question that interests and excites the public, a question about Menahem Begin's personal future. How do you explain his continued isolation in his home and his detachment from public life?

[Shamir] I do not think I have to explain what Mr Begin does or does not do. It is his right and I do not think we should invade his

privacy. I would say that he has a right to live as he chooses, to do or not to do things as he sees fit.

[Schiffer] Do you not think it is a personal tragedy for him to leave the public stage the way he did?

[Shamir] I do not know whether or not this was tragic. In any event, he has done a great deal for the people and the state and it is his right to end his activities as he sees fit and whenever he considers it proper. I would not look upon it as a personal tragedy; all the rest of it is speculation.

[Schiffer] Mr Prime Minister, let me conclude with a question about the future: What will be the results of the elections to the 11th Knesset?

[Shamir] I do not want to speculate. I can only say that I hope that after the next elections we will be able to again form a strong government, based on a larger majority, and capable of forming a national unity government.

[Schiffer] Do you see yourself leading the next government?

[Shamir] I believe that after the elections I will once again be able to establish a government based on a considerable majority in the Knesset and which will also be strong enough to establish a national unity government.

Shamir Discusses Elections With Ministers

TA251644 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Following the Cabinet meeting Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir convened a group of ministers to discuss the preparations for the Knesset elections. Tomorrow Shamir will discuss with Likud ministers the date for the elections. Our political correspondent reports that Yitzhaq Shamir said that reports published today to the effect that there was an agreement between him and David Levi were a complete lie. In these reports it was said that Shamir suggested to his deputy waiving any competition over the head of the list in return for appointing Levi as chairman of the Likud's elections committee.

Shamir on Calls To Move U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem

TA260720 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Mar 84 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said last night that there is great political importance to calls by the U.S. Congress and several prospective Democratic presidental candidates to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Interviewed on Israel Television's Arabic-language programme, Shamir said the calls to move the embassy to Jerusalem are "an expression of the recognition of our capital."

Even if such calls do not result in the moving of the embassy, Shamir said, "There is great importance in the very putting of the subject before the public and the administration." However, he added, "We know from experience that one must add the reservation that they have been made during an election campaign."

Shamir Sends Message to Mubarak on Peace Anniversary

TA251737 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Marcelle Sagiv in Hebrew; date and place not given — recorded]

[Excerpt][Sagiv] Mr Shamir: Tomorrow will mark the 5th year since the signing of the peace agreement with Egypt. Peace is still cool, as we see it. Is there any chance that in the coming year or the next few months the situation will change?

[Shamir] It is true that tomorrow is a very important date in the history of the State of Israel and the history of the relations between Israel and its neighbors. This is the day when we will mark 5 years since the signing of the first peace agreement between the State of Israel and an Arab country and, in this case, the greatest Arab country in the Middle East, Egypt. I think that date is worthy of a special note. Indeed, for that day I saw fit to send a message of congratulations to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. In this message I congratulated him on that day, and I wish both us and our nations progress and success in the attempts to deepen and broaden peace. Peace, after all — with all the difficulties it involves, with all the complications, with all the problems — is the foundation stone, the cornerstone of peace between Israel and its neighbors. It is the cornerstone of a general peace in the Middle East, and I hope that, despite the difficulties, we will overcome them and peace will be genuine.

Further on Anniversary Message

TA261128 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Mar 84 pp 1, 7

[Report by Arye Tzimuqi]

[Excerpt] "In the 5 years since the signing of the peace treaty, Israel and Egypt have proven that war and bloodshed are senseless and that peace and coexistence are a blessing," Prime Minister Ytizhaq Shamir told *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

The prime minister added: "I congratulate the Egyptian president, his Cabinet, and the Egyptian people on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and the strongest Arab country.

Today is a very important date in the history of Israel and its neighbors. This is a date to be marked and that is why I sent a personal message to President Mubarak. I hope that, together with the Egyptians, we can make progress in our relationship and expand the peace process which, despite all the difficulties and complications, is a cornerstone for relations between Israel and its neighbors."

AFP: Arens Says Army 'Ready To Withdraw'

NC232025 Paris AFP in English 2015 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Jerusalem, March 23 (AFP) — The Israeli army is ready to withdraw totally from Lebanese territory if local or national forces show they are capable "of maintaining security and preventing anti-Israeli attacks", Defence Minister Moshe Arens said today.

However, he added that he did not think the situation in Lebanon was ready for the army to leave, and the Israeli Government had not yet decided on even a partial withdrawal.

Citing the Israeli withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf mountains outside Beirut in September, Mr. Arens said the sole objective of the Israeli army's presence in Lebanon was to defend Israel's northern border. "Wherever that objective has been obtained, the army could withdraw", he said.

Arens Adviser Denies Remarks on Weinberger, Tabah

TA240922 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] According to *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, Minister Arens at one time proposed giving up some parts of the Tabah area to Egypt in exchange for a meeting with Defense Minister Abu Ghazalah, but the proposal was rejected. The paper will publish a long article tomorrow about the defense minister, an article written prior to the decision to dissolve the Knesset and hold early elections. According to the article, Minister Arens also said that his U.S. counterpart, Caspar Weinberger, urgently needs a psychiatrist to sort out the difficult problems he has due to his Jewish origins.

Nahman Shay, the defense minister's adviser on communications affairs, has categorically denied the remarks attributed to the defense minister with regard to Tabah and Caspar Weinberger.

Begin Not Considering Resignation 'At Present'

TA251735 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Knesset Member Menahem Begin says that so far he has taken no step in the direction of resigning from the Knesset, and at the present he is not considering resignation. In a talk with our correspondent Hayim Zissovitz, Begin said that when the time comes for submitting his resignation, he will announce it publicly.

Cabinet Holds Weekly Meeting 25 March

TA251148 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1105 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Report by Moshe Hakohen outside the prime minister's office in Jerusalem]

[Text] The highlight of the Cabinet session, which finished a few minutes ago, was the situation in Lebanon in the wake of the Lausanne conference. As has been the case in recent sessions dealing with this issue, the Cabinet met as the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs and its discussion cannot be disclosed.

After a lapse of several weeks, there was once again a demonstration by Kibbutz members against the prolonged IDF presence in Lebanon. This time, for security reasons, the demonstrators were driven away to the park named for Emil Grunzweig, far away from the ministers. They protested this by whistling and booing as the cars of the ministers left following the meeting.

The Cabinet was also briefed by the prime minister on the talk he held on Friday with U.S. envoy Donald Rumsfeld.

Incidentally, tomorrow is the 5th anniversary of the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. The Cabinet did not directly discuss this issue, but as he left the meeting, Yosef Burg, chairman of the Ministerial Committee on Autonomy Affairs, referred to this date, perhaps jokingly, as the memorial day for the peace treaty.

Speaking to foreign correspondents, Minister Burg said that peace with Egypt has been almost devoid of any content for the last 2 years. He accused Egypt of violating its commitment to frankly and ceaselessly negotiate an agreement on autonomy. He said the Egyptians had decided on this course prior to the war in Lebanon and that they had used the latter as a pretext.

The Cabinet also approved the members of the Israel Broadcasting Authority plenum. Despite its agenda, the Cabinet did not discuss the establishment of a second television channel.

Sharon Request Not Discussed

TA251348 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Cabinet heard today reports by the prime minister and the defense minister on matters concerning Lebanon and talks with the United States. The Cabinet did not discuss the request of Minister Ari'el Sharon to release secret documents which deal with the investigation committee on the Sabra and Shatila affair. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the Cabinet did not discuss the request since the pronouncements of the Foreign Ministry and the security services regarding this request have not been presented yet.

In the meeting minister Sharon complained that he sent the request in a letter to the Cabinet secretariat, a single copy only, and the substance of the letter was leaked and made public this morning by Voice of Israel. Our political correspondent reports that the Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor explained that he had to make the letter known to those whose opinions had to be consulted.

One of the ministers who left the meeting told our correspondent that the documents must not be released for Sharon's use, since this would open Pandora's box, and the ministers are responsible for the morale of the public. Another minister, Hayim Corfu, said that there should be no fear of making the documents public, since the government stands behind all its decisions concerning

Lebanon. The only consideration must be the security of the country.

Peace Anniversary on Agenda

TA251938 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Report on 25 March Cabinet session by David Essing — recorded]

[Excerpt] It was business as usual at today's Cabinet meeting. Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Arens reported on Lebanon and last week's meeting with American envoy Donald Rumsfeld, who arrived in Jerusalem from Cairo. Rumsfeld brought a message of the continued Egyptian commitment to the peace process, despite the cold peace. On the fifth anniversary of the Israeli-Egyptian treaty, Prime Minister Shamir today sent a warm and friendly message to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The prime minister hopes for improved relations and the widening of the circle of peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors. After today's Cabinet session, Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor said that 5 years of peace with Egypt should not be taken lightly:

[Meridor] And let us not reduce the existence of peace between Israel and Egypt to a small thing; it is not. Unfortunately, the peace with Egypt has not developed in the speed and intensity that we have wished it to develop, and it is known that we urged upon Egypt to give more contents and to warm up relationships with Israel.

[Essing] But on this note, Interior Minister Yosef Burg blames the Egyptians for not carrying on the frozen autonomy negotiations:

[Burg] It's not only what happened in Lebanon; also before this they didn't want to come.

Lebanon, U.S. Relations Reviewed

TA261122 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Mar 84 p 3

[Report by political correspondent Moti Basoq]

[Text] Israel will not withdraw from the Al-Awwali in the next 2 months. The IDF intends to transfer more duties and responsibilities for what is happening in southern Lebanon to Haddad's army (the southern Lebanese army).

In yesterday's Cabinet session, Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Arens reviewed the security situation and the talks they held last week with U.S. special envoy Donald Rumsfeld. Among other things, they reviewed the situation in Lebanon and the state of affairs in the Persian Gulf. Following these reviews, the Cabinet held a debate as the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs and this part of the session was declared secret. The prime minister also reviewed Israeli- U.S. relations. He noted that bilateral relations had never been better. Among other things, the prime minister quoted explicit pro-Israeli statements made in the last few weeks by President Reagan and the two prominent Democrat presidential candidates, Walter Mondale and Gary Hart. The support for Israel in both houses of Congress as reflected in the cancellation of the Stinger missile deal with Saudi Arabia and Jordan was also highlighted.

Referring to Israeli-Jordanian relations, the prime minister said that Husayn's biggest problem is not Jerusalem but his relations with the Arab world. The United States has recently realized this point following the interviews Husayn gave to the U.S. media.

A source in Jerusalem pointed out that Husayn is apprehensive about Syria and his confidence in the United States has diminished following the latter's blunders in Lebanon. The United States has also not yet given up on 'Arafat and this does not please him.

It was emphasized in the Cabinet session that Israel continues to support the transfer of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Nevertheless, the Cabinet will not intervene in the internal debate in the United States over this issue. In the last few weeks Jerusalem has voiced its opinion only once and this followed statements by U.S. sources that Israel does not care about the transfer. The Israeli Foreign Ministry then took pains to deny this claim.

Aridor Resumes Position as Herut Secretary

TA231627 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Yoram Aridor has announced that he is again serving as the secretary of the Herut Movement. Our correspondent Haviva Roger reports that at a meeting with economists from Haifa, the former finance minister said that his return to the job was fully coordinated with the prime minister and with Ministers Levi and Sharon.

Replying to accusations that he had put into effect an electioneering economy 3 years ago, Aridor explained that cutting taxes on consumer products was a socioeconomic policy that had helped the Likud win the elections, among other benefits. He promised that if he becomes a minister in the next Cabinet, he will support lowering the income tax rates.

Labor Chairman Peres Appeals for Party Unity

TA241132 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres by party affairs correspondent Amnon Nadav on 23 March; place not given — recorded]

[Excerpt] [Nadav] In view of yesterday's Knesset vote, do you believe that the Alignment will be returned to power?

[Peres] Yes, it is on its way back but this is a long and difficult road and I do not make light of the hardships and difficulties along the way.

[Nadav] Labor Party members voiced their assessment today that the latest developments, including the Knesset vote yesterday, have strengthened your position as leader of the Alignment. Do you subscribe to this view?

[Peres] It is very hard for me to judge. I have held this office for 7 years — long and difficult years. I have never been either too pessimistic or too optimistic. I hope we will be able to form a real team, if possible without an internal contest. I believe this will give strength and momentum to the party.

[Nadav] What is your attitude toward public opinion polls and the percentages they give Yitzhaq Navon? Do these disturb you at all?

[Peres] No, they do not disturb me at all. First of all, I am glad that Yitzhaq Navon does well in the polls. I know, however, that polls are valid for the day they are published and it would be premature to predict the election outcome on that basis. I also believe that the most important poll, the one that ultimately determines things, is the one that refers to the party as a whole, not individuals.

[Nadav] Do you think that the possibility of returning to power will help close ranks in the Labor Party or do you think it will reopen ideological wounds or past personal contests?

[Peres] If my analysis is correct, it will strengthen relations within the party. I am very encouraged by what has happened in the last 2 to 3 weeks. The Alignment faction performed properly, key party members cooperated, decisions were made promptly, there was harmony, and there were no conflicts. We spoke with one voice and this certainly encourages me very much.

[Nadav] In other words, you are talking about the possibility of a tripartite leadership headed by yourself along with Yitzhaq Rabin and Yitzhaq Navon.

[Peres] I will do my best to reach an arrangement acceptable to all members. Still, if a member wants to contest it, it is his prerogative and I will not stand in his way.

[Nadav] If there is a contest, do you think it will be like those of the past?

[Peres] I think we have all matured and if there is a contest I believe it will be held in a different atmosphere than in the past.

Ben-Eli'ezer Resignation, Replacement Noted

TA250844 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Mar 84 p 2

[Report by David Richardson]

[Text] The Defence Ministry's coordinator of activities in the administered territories Tat-Aluf [Brigadier General] (Res.) Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer on Friday submitted his resignation to join former Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman's recently launched political party. Ben-Eli'ezer, better known by his childhood name of Fu'ad, was appointed coordinator nine months ago, on his registration the secretary-generalship of TAMI. [sentence as published]

Since then he has tried to foster contacts with the acknowledged moderate Palestinian leadership in the territories. This has been largely at the expense of the Village Leagues, which were championed under former Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon.

Fu'ad was openly disparaging about the leagues, although he recently began to mend his bridges with Muhammad an-Nasir, desposed chairman of the Hebron area league.

Last Sunday, Ben-Eli'ezer even invited An-Nasir — who recently returned from a trip to the U.S. to promote his Paths for Peace movement — to the Defence Ministry.

Jewish settlers in the territories were highly suspicious and critical of Ben-Eli'ezer and had bitterly accused him of encouraging West Bank leaders to go to Jordan recently to meet King Husayn and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Ben-Eli'ezer is expected to be placed second on Weizman's list, in part because of his Sephardi appeal — he was born in Iraq. In addition, he is expected to be in charge of organizing the movement's platform on the West Bank, the Palestinians and relations with Jordan.

His resignation took effect immediately.

Aluf-Mishne [Colonel] Yoram Beckenstein has been appointed acting coordinator.

All Coalition MK's To Support Government

TA260522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] All the coalition's Knesset members plan to continue to support the Cabinet, up until the elections, in Knesset votes of no-confidence or on the budget. This also includes coalition members who voted for early elections, including TAMI MK's, Mordekhay Ben-Porat, and Yitzhaq Berman. This was learned by our correspondent Amnon Nadav.

Labor Party Against Long Election Campaign

TA252008 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] The Labor Party has said that anyone who wants to hold the elections after the summer is not guided by considerations of the country's good, but by foreign [zarim] considerations.

The announcement of the Labor Party's reaction team also says that anyone who is insisting on a long elections campaign is admitting that he needs time to again blackmail the electorate with an election economy.

Navon Assured of Place in First Three Alignment Slots

TA260724 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Mar 84 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Sarah Honig]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv — Labour Party Secretary-General Hayim Bar-Lev said yesterday that when former President Yitzhaq Navon returns to politics, he will find his place assured in the first three slots on the Alignment's slate of candidates to the 11th Knesset.

Bar-Lev said in an IDF radio interview that he hopes his party will be spared battles for the leadership prior to the coming elections. Hopes that Navon will be worked into a troika and not seek the leadership himself are prevalent among supporters of Labour Chairman Shim'on Peres.

David Levi Calls for Herut Movement Unity

TA260735 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi is calling on all members of the Herut Movement to preserve unity by not opposing the leadership. He added that he would consider his moves only in terms of the Likud's best interests. No one will decide for me, he said, and I will decide according to what is best for the movement. David Levi was speaking at a closed meeting of Herut activists in Ramat Yishay. Our corresondent Shulamit Schmerling has been told that most of the participants, or 400 people, expressed support for David Levi, and that only one person spoke openly in favor of including Minister Sharon in any new party leadership.

Alignment Sources Comment on Election Date

TA261009 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0940 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Several minutes ago Alignment sources predicted that if there is no agreement with the Likud on a date for the election by Wednesday, the Alignment will take action to secure a majority in the Knesset for a motion to hold elections in early July. This was reported by our Knesset correspondent Sha'ul Stav.

Meanwhile, the Knesset is awaiting the announcement by the Knesset speaker on whether he will extend the current session by 1 week to complete work on the elections law. Speaker Savidor may postpone his announcement until tomorrow, after Peres and Rabin [as heard] have met.

Savidor Announces No Extension of Knesset Session

TA261100 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1050 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Knesset Speaker Menahem Savidor has announced that he will not extend the Knesset session which will end as scheduled at the end of this week, at which point the Knesset will go into recess. At the same time, Savidor noted that he will make sure the Knesset Law, Constitution, and Justice Committee meets during the recess so as to prevent any delay in the preparation of the elections law.

Syria Reinforces Troops Along Jordanian Border

TA261116 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Mar 84 p 2

["Exclusive" report by Sha'ul Tzadqa]

[Text] London — Syria has reinforced its troops along the Jordanian border with several additional units. Military sources in London report that tension between the two countries reached a peak when a map of "Greater Syria" that included Jordan was published. The Jordanians believe that Abu Nidal's recent activities in Amman were inspired by Syria and were aimed at discrediting King Husayn in the West.

David Kimche Comments on Lausanne Lessons

TA231216 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Mar 84 Supplement p 4

[Report by Arye Tzimuqi]

[Text] The abrogation of the Israel-Lebanon agreement cannot detract from the fact that its signing in itself was an achievement. That is the stand of Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche, who explained the significance of the agreement as far as Israel is concerned to foreign correspondents.

The signing of the agreement, Kimche said, had a two-fold usefulness: Israel proved to the world that it really meant to pull out of Lebanon and establish peaceful relations with it; and the Arab world realized that a second Arab country, in the wake of Egypt, had negotiated with Israel of its own free will and reached an agreement with it which was virtually a de facto peace pact.

Even today, after the abrogation of the agreement, relations between Israel and Lebanon have not been severed. On the official level, the fact that President al-Jumayyil has not demanded that Israel close down its mission in Beirut proves he still wants a dialogue in order to attain security arrangements in southern Lebanon.

Importance is also attached to the fact that Syria is not pressuring Al-Jumayyil to close down the Israeli mission. This would seem to indicate that Syria, too, has reached the conclusion that in the final analysis, there will be no alternative but to reach some sort of understanding with Israel on southern Lebanon, either in writing or verbally.

However, Israel's relations with various splinter groups and other bodies in Lebanon also continue on the non-official plane. The failure of the Lausanne conference has resulted in a certain

amount of clearer thinking by the Druze regarding the ability of the Syrians, and it is quite possible that the ties between Israel and the Druze will now revert to their previous closeness.

On the other side of the barricades in Lebanon there is increasing unrest in the Christian camp over Al-Jumayyil's surrender to the Syrians. The Christian circles would like to strengthen their ties with Israel, and they plan to open an official bureau in Jerusalem shortly.

Israel, too, has learned the lessons of the Lausanne failure, and it is now clear to all that the wise thing to do would be to wind up as soon as possible the Cabinet's clarifications regarding the redeployment of the IDF in southern Lebanon. On that score the Lausanne conference proved really useful — it reinforced the realization that Lebanon is a deep quagmire, and the sooner we are out of it the better.

ALGERIA

GDR Foreign Minister Fischer Arrives for Talks

LD241311 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer arrived today in Algeria for a 3-day official visit at the invitation of Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign affairs minister, who was on hand to welcome him at Hawwari Bumadyan International Airport.

Mr Fischer made a statement to the press, saying that Algeria had achieved under the leadership of President Chadli Bendjedid great successes in its struggle for national development and enjoyed great appreciation in the GDR. The GDR minister recalled the development of bilateral relations since the start of the Algerian people's struggle for national liberation. He said the persistent work by Algeria for the maintenance of peace and social progress and the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, Zionism and racial discrimination is greatly welcomed in the GDR.

Meets With Assembly Speaker

LD252105 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Brother Rabih Bitat, member of the Politburo and speaker of the National Assembly, this afternoon received Mr Oskar Fischer, the GDR minister of foreign affairs, and discussed with him relations between the parliamentarians of the two countries. They also reviewed the international situation.

Cuban Vice President Perez Ends Week-Long Visit

LD242323 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Humberto Perez Gonzalez, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers and chairman of the Central Planning Board, left Algiers at noon today after a week-long visit to our country at the invitation of the minister of planning and urban planning. During the visit, he held talks with several Algerian officials; he was also received by President Chadli Bendjedid and the prime minister.

The visit ended with the signing of the minutes of the talks between the two countries at the Foreign Ministry, opening the prospect of cooperation between Algeria and Cuba in the field of planning and urban planning.

Humberto Gonzalez Perez and the accompanying delegation was seen off at Houari Boumediene International Airport by Brother Ali O'bouzar, minister of planning and urban planning.

FLN, LCY Delegations Issue Joint Communique

LD242227 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] The LCY delegation, led by its director of international relations, Mr Dragosavac, has left Algeria. The delegation spent 5 days in Algeria and concluded with the signing of a protocol agreement with the FLN for 1984-85.

According to the joint communique published this morning, the two parties generally examined bilateral relations, as well as analyzing the international situation, particularly in the Mediterranean. On this subject they reassert the inseparable nature of security in Europe and in the Mediterranean. In the eastern Mediterranean they consider that the situation has worsened due to the creation of a pseudo-independent Turkish state in the north of Cyprus. The FLN and the LCY express their concern over the very complex current situation and the serious problems threatening peace and security in the world.

With regard to detente, the two parties stresses the role of the nonaligned countries' policy and the necessary democratization of international relations, South-South cooperation, and the halting of the arms race. On the question of Western Sahara the only solution, which is stressed by the FLN and the LCY, is through application of Resolution 104 of the 19th OAU summit, which calls for Morocco and the Polisario to hold direct negotiations on the self-determination and independence of the Saharan people. Concerning the Middle East, a just and lasting peace requires he total withdrawal of Zionist troops from occupied Arab territory, including Jerusalem, and the participation of the PLO in all negotiations. The two parties express their support for the progressive and democratic Lebanese forces in their struggle for Lebanon's integrity, unity and Arab character. Moreover, they are very concerned about the aggravation of the fratricidal conflict between Iraq and Iran and appeal to them to end the hostilities and to seek a solution in the interest of both peoples by means of negotiation. Finally, the FLN and the LCY express their support for the peoples of southern Africa and Latin America.

Officials Return From Middle East, Mauritania

LD242137 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Two of the presidential envoy's have returned and given an account of their mission. Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi has returned from Damascus and Riyadh, where he handed over messages from the president of the Republic to Syrian President al-Asad and to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. Colonel Benyelles, acting member of the FLN Politburo and Central Director at the Ministry of Defense, has returned from Nouakchott, where he delivered a message to Mauritanian President Ould Haydala.

LIBYA

U.S. Attack on Country via Chad Thought 'Likely'

LD231842 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Mar (JANA) — Reports attributed to official sources have been circulating in a number of Arab and African capitals about a likely U.S. attack on the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. These reports say the attack will take place in coordination with Egypt, Sudan, the Zionist enemy, and France, and will begin with a military occupation of Chad followed by attacks on strategic targets in Libya with a view to destroying them.

Some Arab and African countries have informed Libya of this through official secret channels.

Diplomats of Multinational Force Countries Threatened

LD240809 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] An organisation calling itself Islamic Jihad Organization [Munathamah al-Jihad al-Islami] has announced that it will avenge the thousands of Muslims killed in Lebanon at the hands of the American, British, French and Italian forces which were part of the so-called multinational force. Dispatches arriving yesterday reported that the embassies of the four countries in Egypt, Indonesia, and in some of the Arab and Islamic countries received messages about this matter through the post from the Islamic Jihad Organization.

The messages said that the establishments and the interests of the four countries will be targets to be hit at any time and at place. Moreover, the members of the diplomatic missions and their families will be subjected to punishment.

A number of banks and airline companies of the four countries in a number of Arab and Islamic countries received similar messages. The messages underlined the heinous massacres and the bloody crimes committed by the forces of the Western powers against the thousands of men, women, children, and the elderly in Lebanon.

Arab People's Congress Secretariat Condemns Sudan

LD241601 Tripoli JANA in English 1415 GMT 24 Mar 84

"Political Statement by Permanent Secretariat of Arab People's Congress" — JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 20, March 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — A statement was issued at a meeting held at the Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress, attended by Sudanese national movement factions and Arab liberation movements. The political statement read as follows:

Nobody, throughout the world, believed or accepted allegations about the jets that attacked the Sudanese radio station in Omdurman on March 16th. Broadcasting corporations, [words indistinct] those in the Western countries did not accept such baseless accusations, made up by Numayri's ill imagination.

The statement went on to say that all political observers, regardless of their affiliation, know well the motivations behind Numayri and his allies in fabricating the story of an external power [words indistinct] and the forces of the Sudanese people in this issue. The logic is straightforward. This regime is responsible for leading Sudan, which is rich of natural resources, to a state of poverty and collapse. In conscience, all sectors of the Sudanese society revolted against the regime. Many strikes took place, such as students, lawyers, judges' and doctors' strikes. In response, Numayri accelerated his dictatorship measures. The campaign of detention included all political forces and leaders of parties, such as Sadiq al-Mahdi, former prime minister.

As for the accusation against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, we say, this is aimed at well-known objectives such as:

1. As a party of the ill-fated Camp David bloc, Numayri is playing the role assigned to him in serving this pact and the U.S. In other words, he is attempting to divert attention to the south, away from the north, where the U.S., the Zionist enemy and the reactionary forces are facing a fierce battle, in Arab Lebanon.

2. An attempt to launch a propaganda campaign against the Jamahiriyah so as to present her in a deformed image by repeating the monotonous accusations about terrorism. What we want to say here is that it is an attempt against the Jamahiriyah's reputation and its national and international progressive role, aimed at frustrating the moral and political gap [words indistinct] her effective support to the Lebanese national movement [words indistinct] struggling in the treaty of 17 May.

3. To give the Egyptian regime a justification to confront pressures by Arab and Egyptian masses in the direction of abrogating the Camp David Treaty, and to absorb rising popular tendency inside Egypt, aiming at liberating the country from U.S.-Zionist domination and a readmitting it to the Arab struggle movement. In other words, Numayri and his allies are working for accelerating [word indistinct] between the countries in the region and once again raising the issue of borders and military counter-attacks.

4. The new game of increasing tension in this part of the Arab region, together with the serious situation in the Arab Gulf, might turn the Arab area into a spot of world conflict, that would seriously threaten the Arabs and world peace.

5. Taking into consideration the imperialist-reactionary alliance in Chad, the worldwide campaign against the Jamahiriyah and the deployment of AWACS jets, one would expect that preparations for a dangerous military action are taking place.

The Permanent Secretariat of the Arab People's Congress while unveiling the dimensions of the imperialist conspiracy implemented by the Camp David band would like to stress that the new attempts will in no way inject life back into the dictatorial regime discarded by the Sudanese people and will not lead to the stabilisation of American domination in this southern part of the Arab world, and will inevitably and very soon end up in more

bankruptcy for the puppet regime in Khartoum and to the unavoidable collapse of the reactionary-Zionist-American block, because all attempted plots to create a reality contrary to the movement of history and the will of peoples is historically untenable.

The will of the Sudanese people will triumph and with it that of the Arab liberation movement. What is required from us to provide all possible assistance to the brave Sudanese freedom fighters until the downfall of the fascist destructive puppet Numayri regime. The participants call on all Arab and world popular forces to be on their guard against the threats directed against the Jamahiriyah and to face up to their responsibilities in standing with the Libyan Arab people against reactionary Zionist-imperialist plans.

The participants sent a cable to the president and members of the Security Council, the secretary general of the U.N., the secretary general of the Arab League, the chairman of nonaligned nations organization, the president of the Organization of African Unity, the general secretary of the Islamic Conference, popular and democratic organisations, World Peace Council and international democratic organisations. The text of the cable reads:

In the name of Arab and Sudanese popular forces conferring at the permanent secretariat of the Arab People's Congress in their emergency conference dedicated to discuss the situation in Sudan in general and the bombing and destruction of Omdurman radio station building on March 16 by a plane from the Sudanese Air Force, we address this cable to you clarifying the basic facts concerning this event.

All signs and indicators point to an important fact, i.e. that this plane has taken off from a Sudanese airport from inside Sudan which enabled it to reach its target without being detected by Sudanese air defence systems which, according to official Sudanese sources, have been put in a state of permanent alert for a long time. If one adds to this the state of discontent and popular rejection among the Sudanese Armed Forces, and if one takes into account the state of permanent fear and continuous apprehensiveness of the ruling regime in Sudan and its desire to depend on external forces to project itself from the Sudanese people's wrath and if we link up all this with the mounting day by day armed unarmed popular revolution both in southern Sudan and the north, one would be left with a firm conclusion that what happened was a purely Sudanese affair and that in accordance with all political and military criteria does not relate from far or near to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. This alleged accusation made by the Sudanese and Egyptian regimes and the present American Administration is in fact nothing but a pretext and an excuse assumed by those regimes in order to justify and pass their aggressive plans to deploy military force and advanced surveillance systems in the region, a threat against progressive regimes led by the revolutionary regime in the Jamahiriyah and the progressive regime in Ethiopia and to confront the mounting revolution ignited on Sudanese soil and which is spreading day by day.

We would also like to draw your attention and that of world public opinion to the state of democracy in Sudan and the suppression and banishment. The Sudanese opposition movement is subjected to, and demand the release of Sudanese prisoners, including the ex-Prime Minister Sadeq al-Mahdi.

In the event we would like to put on the record our total condemnation of American imperialist and the ruling reaction's plots in both Sudan and Egypt, and to disapprove of the direct military threats against the Jamahiriyah and ask you to take practical steps to avoid this danger jeopardising the peace and security of this country's peoples as well as world peace.

PFLP-GC Official Assails 'Tripartite Aggression'

LD232218 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Mar (JANA) — Brother Talal Naji, PLO Executive Committee member and assistant secretary general of the PFLP-General Command, denounced the campaign of the Egyptian and Sudanese regimes against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah for the air raid on Omdurman radio. He said he sees the artificial uproar raised by the two regimes as a prelude to implementation of an imminent aggression against the Al-Fatih Revolution.

In a statement today, he said that the orchestrated uproar of Mubarak and Numayri, encouraged by the Reagan administration, and the Egyptian military activity are a prelude to aggression against the Jamahiriyah — an aggression planned during Mubarak's recent visit to the United States and his meeting with President Reagan, followed some days later by Numayri's visit to Washington.

The air raid on Omdurman radio was an overt maneuver which the two hireling regimes are trying to exploit for launching joint aggression on the Jamairiyah with the blessing of the United States, which quickly exploited the incident in order to increase its military influence in the area by sending AWACS aircraft for operation in Egyptian airspace.

Brother Talal Naji added: The dispatch of AWACS aircraft to Cairo exposes the ugly conspiracy against the Jamahiriyah and against the progressive regimes in the Horn of Africa. It also exposes the fears of the U.S. Administration and its allies about the rising revolutionary tide in southern Sudan.

The assistant secretary general of the PFLP-GC called on progressive forces and Afro-Arab patriotic regimes to pay attention to the danger of the aggressive move by Mubarak and Numayri against the Jamahiriyah with U.S. blessing, and said they should work for providing all forms of revolutionary support for the great Al-Fatih Revolution which is today being exposed to a tripartite aggression led by the United States and being implemented by the Egyptian and Sudanese regimes.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks With Syrian President

LD252149 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] A telephone contact took place today between the brother leader of the revolution and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, concerning the current situation in the Arab arena and what this

stage requires in the concentration of efforts for facing up to the challenges confronting the Arab homeland.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Romanian President's Envoy

LD252144 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received today Manea Manescu, the personal envoy of the Romanian president, who handed him a handwritten message from Nicolae Ceausescu, the president of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Poland's Obodowski Visits Green Book Center

LD231502 Tripoli JANA in English 1424 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 19, Mar 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Polish vice premier Mr. Janusz Obodowski and his accompanying delegation yesterday paid a visit to the International Centre for Green Book Research and Studies.

The secretary of the centre Ahmed Shahati fully explained to his guest, the direct people's democracy being practiced by the Libyan Arab people through basic people's congresses, people's committee, trade unions [wrds indistinct]. He also explained to them the accomplishments of the revolutions in various fields.

The secretary of the center pointed out that the International Centre for Green Book Research and Studies aims to promulgate the human dictums of the Green Book throughout the world for the final emancipation of means of slavery, exploitation, oppression and backwardness.

Obodowski Departs

LD231539 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Mar (JANA) — Janusz Obodowski, deputy chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers, left Tripoli this afternoon at the end of his visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, during which he held talks on the intensification of cooperation between the two countries.

Egyptian Foreign Minister's Remarks Ridiculed

LD250025 Tripoli JANA in English 1929 GMT 24 Mar 84

"When Egyptian Regime Cajoles Saudi Arabia and Jordan" — JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 20, March 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY political editor commented on statements made by the Egyptian regime concerning the decision by the head of the American Administration to cancel the sale of anti-aircraft weapons to Saudi Arabia and Jordan by saying: Through these statements, the Egyptian regime is beginning to cajole both Saudi Arabia and Jordan, when Egypt's foreign minister stated that countries should obtain means to defend themselves. The editor also pointed out that such statements were released by a regime known to be isolated and banned after committing high treason and surrendering to the Zionist enemy, thus abandoning the Arab cause and falling in the arms of American imperialism.

Such statements call for laughter and can only be explained as being a desperate attempt by this regime to become an agent for U.S. weapon factories in the Arab region.

Anniversary of Egypt's 'Capitulation' to Israel Noted

LD252022 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli 25 Mar (JANA) — Tomorrow, Monday, falls the fifth anniversary of the treaty of treason, treachery and capitulation which the entombed traitor As-Sadat signed on 26 March 1979 along with the Zionist enemy to betray the Arab nation and discredit its nationalist sacrificies. The regime of Husni Mubarak, which is linked to the American wagon, officially celebrates this anniversary at a time when Tabahand Sinai are still being occupied by the Zionist enemy, of which the agent regime in Cairo says it is a strategic ally and that it will not abandon its treacherous and capitulative commitments [word indistinct].

The celebration of the treacherous facist clique in Egypt of this shameful deed comes to confirm the agentry of the regime, its subordination and complete capitulation to the Zionist enemy, and to prove again that it works to harm the Egyptian people and infringe upon its sovereignty and dignity when it opened the gates of Egypt before the American military bases and before the Zionist gangs, turning Egypt into a subservient capitulative regime deeply involved in treason — to an Arab El Salvador and a base for aggression and for the implementation of the American imperialist designs.

This treacherous treaty, which was signed by the entombed As-Sadat and to which the present Egyptian regime is still committed, was the direct cause for all the catastrophies that befell the Arab nation. Among the outcomes of this treaty was the burning of Beirut and the destruction of Lebanon and the killing of thousands of innocents in Sabra and Shatila within an imperialist-Zionist scheme aims at marching on the entire Arab homeland and destroying it country by country within a tenth crusade campaign that aims at liquidating the Arabs and Muslims all over the inhibited globe.

The Egyptian regime, regardless of the massacres in Beirut and regardless of burning Tyre and Sidon and despite the fact that the Israelis have burned stable David and run over this treaty with their tanks and burned it with their bombs, despite all of this, the regime is still committed to this treacherous treaty with an utmost humiliation, submission and lethargy.

The Egyptian regime bears the historic responsibility for all the crimes committed against the Arab nation because it has committed the historic sin and betrayed the Arabs and offered the Israelis the security to [word indistinct] the Arabs, for had Egypt not capitulated, the Israelis would not have been able to occupy Lebanon and implement their expansionist plans in the Arab region.

MOROCCO

King Hassan Receives Reagan Message on Jerusalem

LD241802 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Fes, 24 Mar (MAP) — His Majesty King Hassan II has received a message from President Ronald Reagan in reply to the letter his majesty sent him on 12 March concerning the legal status of the holy city of Jerusalem. The American President's message affirms to the Moroccan monarch that the American Administration is actively opposed to the legislation proposed to the Congress aimed at transferring the American Embassy to Jerusalem.

In his message the American President says "Your Majesty can be certain that I fully realise the depth of your feelings over the issue of Jerusalem, feelings expressed by Your Majesty both on your own behalf and in your capacity as chairman of the Jerusalem Committee. I affirm that the American Government's position concerning the question of Jerusalem has remained constant through eight successive administrations."

The American President recalled his statement on 1 September 1982 on his peace initiative for the Middle East to the effect that "Jerusalem must remain an undivided city, but its final status should be defined through negotiations."

In conclusion, the American President says: I express to you my deep and sincere gratitude for your continuous and serious support for the cause of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Reportage on Visit by Portuguese Foreign Minister

Ministers Receive Gama

LD231328 Rabat MAP in English 1226 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Text] Rabat, Mar 23 (MAP) — Portuguese Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Jaime Gama was received Thursday morning by Moroccan Premier, Mr Mohamed Karim Lamrani.

During the meeting which was attended by a number of Moroccan officials Mr Lamrani expressed satisfaction at Portugal's stand toward Morocco's national questions and insisted on the necessity to reactivate bilateral cooperation. They also agreed on the organizing of a forum with a view to prospecting the markets, consolidating the existing agreements as well as reinforcing cooperation in fisheries and merchant navy areas. Agricultural cooperation, regarding particularly the forest sector, was also examined.

Mr Gama was received by Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdelouahid Belkeziz. The two parties held an enlarged working session.

Mr Gama was also received by Mr Maati Bouabid, Moroccan minister of state, who briefed him on the political situation in Morocco and on questions of common interest. In his expose Mr Bouabid highlighted Morocco's determination to defend her legitimate rights and underlined her willingness to work for a peaceful african solution regarding the tension in the north-west African region, with a view to achieving the unity of the Greater Arab Maghreb and preserving solid relations with the neighbouring countries as well as cooperation and mutual respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each of the countries of the region.

Mr Gama also conferred separately with Mr M'hamed Boucetta, and Mr Ahmed 'Usman, Moroccan ministers of state, Mr Abdelouahid Rahdi, minister in charge of cooperation, and Mr Azzedine Guessous, minister of commerse, industry and tourism.

Talks dealt with economic bilateral cooperation.

Meeting With King Hassan

LD231542 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, this afternoon received Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama. The meeting was held in the presence of Foreign Minister Abdelouhid Belkeziz and the two countries' ambassadors.

Gama Assesses Talks

LD241412 Rabat MAP in English 1239 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Fes, Mar 24 (MAP) — A Moroccan-Portuguese cooperation agreement was concluded on Friday afternoon in Fes by Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdelouahid Belkeziz, and his visiting Portuguese counterpart, Mr Jaime Gama. This agreement sets up a Moroccan-Portuguese permanent commission which will be entrusted with giving a new impetus to cooperation relations between the two countries.

In a declaration to MAP, Mr Gama specified that the talks he had with King Hassan II of Morocco enabled him to be acquainted with the sovereign's points of view of the international situation and particularly on the Portuguese-Moroccan relations.

The Portuguese minister added that these talks had also provided the opportunity to listen to "the king's opinion on several questions, namely the Mideast problem, the Palestinian issue, the Lebanese crisis, the Iranian-Iraqi conflict, the Gulf situation and Egypt's new role within the Arab nation and the new perspectives of the Arab and Islamic world".

Mr Gama said that he had also conferred with King Hassan II on the Euro-African dialogue, the Euro-Arab dialogue as well as the role Morocco and Portual can play with respect to the European and African Continents.

The Portuguese minister underlined that the sovereign exposed his judgement on the Sahara question, the way the problem evolved, his conceptions, his initiatives and his analysis of the problems to which a constructive solution is expected.

Regarding the Moroccan-Portuguese, [as received] Mr Gama said this cooperation agreement would undoubtedly reinforce bilateral relations.

Gama Statement to Press

LD241408 Rabat MAP in English 1217 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Rabat, Mar 24 (MAP) — Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama who is currently on a state visit to Morocco hailed the policy and the efforts exerted by King Hassan II of Morocco for peace in the Arab Maghreb. In a statement he made to the press before leaving for Fes, Mr Gama indicated that Portugal's foreign policy grants a particular importance to the Maghreb and that there will be no change in this policy.

He added that his country will not recognize the so-called "SADR" (a self-proclaimed Sahrawi Republic) nor will it allow the opening on its soil of any bureau of the so-called "Polisario" (an Algerian-backed guerrilla movement claiming sovereignty over the Moroccan Sahara).

Evoking his talks with the members of the Moroccan Government, Mr Gama said these talks focused on economic and technical cooperation, maritime fisheries, and cultural relations.

After he announced that the Moroccan-Portuguese joint commission will meet next October, Mr Gama indicated that the two sides decided to develop further their cooperation in the areas of electric energy, irrigation, dams construction, mechanical and chemical industries, construction, shipbuilding, and forests (wood and cork-oak). In this respect, he said that a Moroccan delegation would shortly visit Lisbon to discuss with Portuguese officials all the aspects of bilateral relations in the area of forests, indicating that a joint Moroccan-Portuguese venture is already practicing with a two million dollars turnover.

Regarding bilateral cooperation in the social area, Mr Gama said the two sides decided to exchange experts especially regarding immigrant workers. He also indicated that a delegation of Portuguese experts will shortly visit Morocco with a view to restoring the Portuguese historical monuments in Morocco, and announced the organizing in Morocco by the beginning of 1985 of a colloquy aimed at an exchange of viewpoints between Moroccan and Portuguese historians (?on their) countries' common history.

Gama Departs

LD242222 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama left Tangiers airport this evening after an official 4-day visit to Morocco. This morning the head of Portuguese diplomacy went sightseeing in Tangiers and attended a lunch banquet given in his honor by his majesty's governor of the province.

Mr Jaime Gama was seen off by Moulay Salma Benzidan, his majesty's ambassador in Lisbon, the Portuguese ambassador in Rabat and his majesty's governor of Tangiers Province.

SUDAN

U.S. Envoy Rumsfeld Visits for Talks

JN241013 Khartoum SUNA in English 0905 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, Mar, 24, (SUNA) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan's special Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld arrived here at 9:30 p.m. Friday night.

Mr. Rumsfeld is expected to hold talks with President of the Republic Ja'far Numayri this morning.

Rumsfeld Meets With Numayri

JN241447 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1413 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Mar (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has received a letter from U.S. President Ronald Reagan dealing with developing bilateral relations and the Middle East developments. The letter was delivered to the president today by Donald Rumsfeld, President Reagan's special envoy to the Middle East.

During the meeting, Rumsfeld praised President Numayri's pioneering role in handling all issues on the local, regional and international levels. Rumsfeld and President Numayri reviewed the dangers that are facing the Middle East region as a result of the Iraq-Iran war and the Lebanese situation. They also reviewed efforts to establish peace in the region, and discussed means of promoting and reviving peace efforts.

The meeting was attended by First Vice President 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, Minister of the President's Office Dr Baha ad-Din Muhammad Idris, Rumsfeld's aide Mr Silverman and U.S. Ambassador Alexander Horan.

Rumsfeld Departs

JN241105 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 24 Mar (SUNA) — At 1130 today, U.S. President Reagan's special envoy to the Middle East, Donald Rumsfeld, left Khartoum. Rumsfeld had arrived yesterday.

Dr Baha' ad-Din Muhammad Idris, minister of the president's office, and Hume Alexander, U.S. ambassador in Khartoum, saw Rumsfeld off at Khartoum airport.

UN Security Council Reviews Complaint on Libya

JN231855 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1740 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] United Nations, 23 Mar (SUNA) — The UN Security Council held unofficial talks today on Sudan's request for a Security Council meeting, expected to be held next Tuesday after Foreign Minister Muhammad Mirghani Mubarak arrives here to submit Sudan's complaint against Libya.

In a letter sent by the foreign minister to the UN Security Council, he said that a Soviet-made Libyan bomber raided the

city of Omdurman last Friday causing the deaths of five people and injury to others.

Muhammad Mirghani stressed that Sudan will take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of its citizens. He added that the Libyan aggression was based on a policy of sabotage and conspiracy meant to satisfy the ambitions of the leaders of the Libyan regime for expansion and spreading their influence through force and terror.

Egyptian President Mubarak Visits Khartoum 25 Mar

Met by Numayri

JN251004 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 25 (SUNA) — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak arrived here today on a short visit to Sudan.

Upon his arrival at the airport Mubarak was received by President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri and senior officials.

Mubarak Addresses SSU Leadership

NC251202 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Mar (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has affirmd that Egypt stands with Sudan with all its resources in any situation. In a speech he made at the opening session of the Sudanese Socialist Union central leadership's meetings at the Friendship Hall today, Mubarak said: I do not need to mention this, because solidarity between [the two parties] of the Nile Valley represents a stronghold on which aggression will founder. He said: We harbor no evil to anyone and we only aim to spread prosperity in the holy valley, which was the first site in which the banner of monotheism and sublime ideas emerged.

Mubarak said that our solidarity in all situations and in facing all eventualities is the essence of our mission in the integrated state. Sudan will never be alone whatever the challenges, nor will Egypt be alone in the most difficult situation. It is the same march that God supports and the Nile Valley people water with their pure blood. It is a march that is continuing with God's blessings.

Mubarak began his speech amidst the cheers and applause of the audience. He said: It is good to be with you today. I am honored by you and extend to you heartfelt greetings as well as sincere wishes for every honest Sudanese. All the Sudanese are honest and upright. They build civilization, make progress, achieve glory and are ready to sacrifice their lives for their holy land in the Nile Valley.

Mubarak added: Your third meeting in the fifth session of the Sudanese Socialist Union is another indication of the beloved Sudanese people's solidity and outstanding ability to defend themselves and rise to the level of the challenge. The Sudanese people have a genuine desire to continue to make sacrifices for the sake of God, and their rights and homeland. They rally around their courageous leadership, which time has proven its worthiness to bear their trust at this important juncture in the history of our Arab nation.

President Mubarak said that the masses of our great people in the southern valley have proven their unique ability to make events, write history and confront the biggest challenges whatever the sacrifices, and have proven their loyalty to the homeland. He further said that a people of such mettle and character will succeed in achieving their goals through struggle, work, love, self-confidence, faith in God, and looking to the future. Such a front is too strong for the covetous and adventurists, who do not care for the peoples' interests, disregard God in their actions and thinking, and follow illusions and seek evil, oppression and aggression.

President Mubarak said: When we talk about the solid Sudanese front we mean the unified stand of the Nile Valley, both in the north and the south. We have a common cause, a common fate, and a common security. Our good earth is pure and harbors love and peace. Our earth rejects division and oppression and has been a stronghold for heroism, light, and the proper guidance throughout centuries, and even since man set up his early civilization, lit the torch of science and knowledge and established the bases that reject oppression and respect the dignity of mankind who defends the teachings of God.

May God's peace and blessing be upon you.

Numayri Addresses SSU Session

JN251157 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 25 March, (SUNA) — The President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri addressed this morning the 3rd meeting of the Sudanese Socialist Union Central Leadership in its fifth session.

President Numayri hailed in his address the Egyptian President Husni Mubarak who attended the meeting. President Mubarak arrived here this morning on a short visit.

President Numayri announced that the aircraft which attacked Omdurman was a Soviet-built TU-22. The aircraft [is] possessed only by Libya and it could make a flight distance of 4300 kms although the aircraft had missed its aims added the president. The raid made a loss of 5 dead, 12 wounded, and struck 7 cars from which 2 had [been] absolutely destroyed. It destroyed also 3 houses a girls school and a part of Omdurman radio premises.

President Numayri said in his address to the SSU Central leadership this morning that "if the treacherous raid on Omdurman [was] aimed at silencing the Omdurman broadcasting station it will never silence the voice of Sudanese people who marched on processions in protest against the raid".

The president added that if the raid was seeking for more tension in the relations between Sudan and Ethiopia the Sudan leadership is so wise and prudent not to fall in this trap. [sentence as received]

President Numayri today repeated his call on the all dissidents in southern Sudan to put down the guns and return to the country. He further said "It's my pleasure to hear that the leader of the dissidents (Garang) had drawn himself away from the communism but we want him to announce it openly and if he did so I will give him the permission to come back to Sudan.

President Numayri added that "Sudanese people can crush tension movements and will not kneel to hegemony plans and foreign forces."

"We do not afraid of Al-Qadhdhafi but we draw attention to the broad strategic plan and the role of Al-Qadhdhafi in educating by ,nobilizing all his potentialities to it breaching all laws and conventions", he added. [sentence as received]

The president said, "Sudan enemies will push Al-Qadhdhafi for more attempts against Sudan and we have to put into consideration more attempts by using various weapons they may make war against the pricing market they will make war also utilising vicious rumours against Sudan", the president said. [sentence as received]

My experience learns me [as received] that Al-Qadhdhafi did not fulfil a promise and his repeated experiment for reconciliation was conspiracies against Sudan.

Sudan since defeated communism become [as received] a target for retaliation and so we have been aware of the Aden hostile pact and its aim of destabilizing security in the Red Sea, the African Horn and the Nile Valley, Numayri explained. The pact also aimed at making Soviet puppet regime in the region and surrounding Sudan with hostile regimes, he added. [sentence as received]

The enemies of Sudan exerted seditious efforts to ignite conflict between Sudan and Ethiopia. They strive bitterly to embroil Ethiopia in hostile campaigns against Sudan and to escalate subversive action against Sudan and to jeopardize its peace and tranquility, he went on.

The enemies have exploited the political conflicts in the South to launch secessionist movement and armed rebellion and erode Sudan's unity, he added.

In his address President Numayri denounced the conspiracies against Sudan and said such conspiracies would only be faced by more cohesion and more trust on our regular Armed Forces. He called on the Sudanese youth to hold weapons to defend their country and to fortify and consolidate their popular capabilities to face the emergencies.

President Numayri called on the trade unions to pure their ranks from the opportunists and to put an end to any attempt for strike or delaying the work. He stated that no recognition or negotiation would be made with those who stop working and resort to blackmail. President Numayri pointed out that everyone who adopt strike as a mean for imposing certain demands should bear the responsibility for dismantling the ranks of the nation.

In his address President Numayri warned that the Sudanese people would not keep silent before conspiracies and aggression.

He explained that it was high time for auditing the wages policy, controlling the moving up of prices and considering the economic and security situation in the country. The president voiced that the revolution belongs to the workers and always tries to stave off conflicts with the employee. The president called on the masses to be vigilant and cautious in unveiling the infiltration and subversive plots.

The president referred to Al-Qadhdhafi plans and conspiracies against Sudan and disclosed that Col al-Qadhdhafi has billeted the secessionists and mercenaries for the sake of carrying out his ambitions and plots to separate the south. Al-Qadhdhafi is currently making military, logistic and moral backing to the armed rebellion in the south to rekindle the era of civil war in Sudan, he explained.

"Al-Qadhdhafi's agents will not overcome the Sudanese people and infiltration and subversion and covert war will not alter the fortitude of the Sudan", The president said.

In his address today President Numayri touched on the reports talking about the suffering of the people at Kordufan and Darfur regions due to drought and desertification and called for resuscitating the area affected by desertification and to face the food shortage by increasing production and mobilizing the famrers in order to face this problem.

President Numayri again condemned the Libyan air raid on Omdurman.

The president paid a tribute, on behalf of the central leadership, to the Egyptian people and their leadership. He also greeted Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Omani sultanate and other African friends, particularly Chad, for attitude towards Sudan. Likewise he greeted all the world countries and paid special tribute to the chairman of Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) Yasir 'Arafat and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Mubarak Departs After Session

JN251107 Khartoum SUNA in English 1055 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum Mar. 25 (SUNA) — President Husni Mubarak of Egypt left here today, winding up a few-hours visit to Sudan, during which held talks with President Numaryi. Mubarak left at 1200 local time after attending an opening sitting of the Central Leadership of the Sudanese Socialist Party [SSU].

The two presidents held a closed-door session in the framework of continual consultations between the two countries. The talks covered the recent developments in the area on the heels of the recent Libyan air raid on Omdurman. Bilateral relations, as well as Arab and African issues had been in the theme of discussions between the two leaders.

DJIBOUTI

Ethiopia's Mengistu Arrives for 4-Day Visit

EA231903 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali
1645 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The president of Socialist Ethiopia, Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, who is also the current chairman of the OAU, arrived today, Friday 23 March, at the airport of the capital of the Republic of Djibouti, for a 4-day official visit. President of Ethiopia Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam is accompanied by a powerful 28-member delegation, including four ministers.

The talks between the presidents of the two countries will center on strengthening and promoting the good relations existing between the Republic of Djibouti and Socialist Ethiopia, and the current situation prevailing in the region and the world at large.

The Republic of Djibouti pursues a nonaligned policy in the current tension prevailing in this region and urges and is always prepared to take on a mediation role if requested to by those countries concerned.

The visit to the Republic of Djibouti by Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, the president of Socialist Ethiopia, comes only few days after the visit of a Kenyan delegation led by its foreign minister, Elijah Mwangale.

ETHIOPIA

Eritrean Front Claims To Have Destroyed Several Bases

LD231858 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali
1115 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The liberation force for the independence of Eritrea, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF], said it has destroyed several military camps of the colonialist Abyssinian forces, killing, wounding and taking many soliders prisoner.

An EPLF spokesman said that early last week their forces completely overran the town of (Asar) on the common border with Sudan.

The spokesman said a military communique released by the organization in Khartoum yesterday disclosed that the fighting between the EPLF and the Abyssinian colonialist forces started on Monday, 19 March, and ended yesterday, 22 March 1984. The EPLF said their forces annihilated the Abyssinian forces stationed in those areas, captured the important town of Karora, and are now in complete control of the western and northeastern sectors of the area.

The report adds that thousands of Abyssinian troops have been killed, others wounded, many taken prisoner, and the remainder have fled into Sudan.

TANZANIA

Mali President Begins 3-Day Visit to Dar es Salaam

Arrival 23 March

EA231852 Dar es Salaam External Service in English
1600 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam: President Moussa Traore of Mali arrived in Dar es Salaam today for a 3-day visit to Tanzania. He is accompanied by his wife.

At the Dar es Salaam international airport, President Traore was met by President Nyerere, Mama Maria Nyerere, the interim president of Zanzibar Ndugu Ali Hassan Mwinyi, the Prime Minister Ndugu Edward Sokoine, and other party and government leaders. On his arrival at the airport, the Malian president received a 21-gun salute, and inspected a guard of honor.

Tonight the president will attend a state banquet at the State House to be hosted by President Nyerere. Tomorrow morning the two leaders will hold official talks. During the afternoon Mr Traore will leave Dar es Salaam for Arusha for a day's visit. The Malian President, who will also visit Zanzibar, returns home next Monday.

Nyerere Speech at Banquet

EA232056 Dar es Salaam External Service in English
1900 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam — President Nyerere said tonight that if South Africa believes that it can solve its problems in Namibia or South Africa by dialogue with the independent states in Africa, then it is dreaming. He said the racist regime's problems came from the peoples of Namibia and South Africa who demanded freedom and dignity by fighting apartheid because they had no other way for them.

Speaking at a state banquet he hosted in honor of the visiting President Moussa Traore of Mali, Mwalimu said if the Pretoria regime wanted to end its problems, it must talk to the people of South Africa in South Africa.

The president said the racist regime had intensified oppression instead of freeing its political prisoners and giving South African people the opportunity to select their own representatives who could have genuine and useful discussions. Mwalimu Nyerere said apartheid has not changed. Therefore Africa has no choice but to support those who struggle to overthrow apartheid.

He expressed his hope that Mali and all other African countries would reiterate their commitment to the freedom of Namibia from South African colonialism and to the ending of apartheid.

Emphasizing the need for African countries to unite in their struggle against apartheid, Mwalimu said there was nothing South Africa liked more than that Africans quarrel among themselves.

Traore Speech

EA241542 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 0400 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Excerpt] President Moussa Traore of Mali has urged for continued cooperation among the developing countries in order to ease their economic difficulties. Gen Traore said there was a great need for the implementation of the South-South dialogue and strengthened cooperation to bring about economic stability, peace and security, and order in the developing countries. He said in order to maintain the reputation of the African Continent and to avoid the division of African states, there was a need to intensify the climate of peace and solidarity.

Gen Traore was speaking last night at a state banquet hosted in his honor by President Nyerere at the start of his 3-day visit to Tanzania. He commended President Nyerere's high guides and mobilization of the Tanzanian masses in achieving justice, freedom and peace. On the Western Sahara issue, Gen Traore said it can only be solved through direct negotiations which, he said, should first direct (?an) immediate cease-fire.

Earlier, President Nyerere called on African countries to help South African liberation movements in their struggle to overthrow the apartheid regime of South Africa. He said African states should unite and help the freedom fighters in their just struggle inside South Africa and Namibia against the Boer regime.

Presidents Hold Talks

EA241546 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1300 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] The visiting Malian President Moussa Traore this morning held talks with President Nyerere at the State House in Dar es Salaam. The talks focused on the problems facing the African continent. They discussed Western Sahara, Chad, the forthcoming 20th OAU summit and events concerning the liberation struggle in southern Africa.

President Moussa Traore, who arrived in the country yesterday, briefed Mwalimu and his delegation on the situation of the Western Sahara, Chad and the prospects for holding of the 20th OAU summit this year. President Nyerere, who is also the chairman of the frontline states, took the opportunity to brief his guest on the latest situation in southern Africa, especially the signing of an agreement between Angola and racist South Africa, the nonaggression agreement between Mozambique and South Africa, and also the liberation struggle inside Namibia. It is believed that a joint communique will be issued at the end of President Moussa Traor's visit on Monday.

During the talks, Mwalimu Nyerere was accompanied by the prime minister, Ndugu Edward Sokoine; the minister of foreign affairs, Ndugu Salim Ahmed Salim; and other government officials.

Party Paper on RSA Destabilization Policy

EA251521 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 0400 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] The party weekly newspaper, *MZALENDO*, today comments on the Mozambique-Angola-South Africa peace pacts.

The paper writes that recently racist South Africa held talks with the neighboring countries of Mozambique and Angola aimed at achieving peace in southern Africa. The Boers have already signed a non-aggression pact with Mozambique and have reached agreement with Angola on certain issues with a view to reducing tensions in the region. Racist South Africa has begun similar talks with Botswana.

MZALENDO says Mozambique and Angola have repeatedly been victims of attacks and invasions from the South African racist regime. The same regime has been supporting rebel bandits opposed to the two countries' legal governments. However, the paper observes that all these attacks and invasions by the Boer regime and its aid to the bandits have never retarded the two countries' efforts at guarding their borders and continuing to support the people of Namibia and South Africa who are oppressed by the racist regime.

MZALENDO maintains that after failing to destabilize these countries, racist South Africa decided to enter into peace talks with Mozambique and Angola. But the paper warns the Boers that Africa and the international community in general will never support them by holding these talks. [as heard]

The paper says as long as the Boer regime continues practicing racism and occupying Namibia in defiance of UN Resolution 435, there will be no peace in southern Africa.

Juwata, PRC TU Federations To Promote Relations

EA241538 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1300 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] The Tanzania workers organization, Juwata, and the All-China Federation of Trade Unions have agreed in principle to take measures aimed at promoting the existing relations and cooperation between the two organizations. This was said today by the Juwata secretary general, Ndugu Joseph Rwegasira, when briefing newsmen after the final discussions between the visiting Chinese trade union delegation and the Juwata officials.

Ndugu Rwegasira said both sides have agreed to exchange delegates and establish a long-term study tour program for Juwata cadres to China. He said during the discussions the Chinese asked Juwata to support them in contesting for the deputy membership of the governing board of the international labor organization in this year's election. This evening, the Chinese delegation meets President Nyerere at the State House, and is scheduled to leave for home tomorrow.

CHAD

Foreign Ministry Accuses Libya in Sudan Bombing

AB240940 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Following the bombing of the Sudanese town of Omdurman, the Chadian Government has (?reacted) through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. A statement by the ministry said five persons were killed in the bombing, many others were wounded, and many buildings were destroyed including the radio station. In view of this, the Chadian Government disapproves of this barbaric act which only a terrorist government could carry out.

The ministry further said: It has been indisputably established that the author of the air raid is the Libyan Government, as it is the only country in the subregion possessing long-range Tupolev bombers which were used last year to drop deadly bombs on Faya-Largeau, killing many Chadians and destroying civil targets. The statement added: Carried out by Libya, which has never hidden its bellicose policy, its determination to destabilize and subject its neighboring countries and many other countries, this criminal aggression has not come as a surprise to us, for the Chadian Government has always warned the international community against the maneuvers of the Tripoli regime. Also, this aggression, which is contrary to the principle of the international regulations [words indistinct] is a matter of serious concern to the Chadian Government because it endangers peace and security in our region.

That is why, true to the fundamental principles of the OAU and UN Charters, the Chadian Government, which is also a victim of Libya's expansionist and hegemonistic policy, strongly condemns that aggression and upholds Sudan's right to resort to self-defense measures, the statement said, adding: The Chadian Government believes that all justice- and peace-loving countries will condemn this (?unfriendly) act against the sovereignty of an independent state, and will also denounce Libya's unacceptable repeated interferences in the internal affairs of Sudan and other states.

Libya has much too often defied the United Nations and the OAU. Now the time has come for the two organizations to react and isolate the Tripoli government, which has made the use of force and international terrorism a political system aimed at enabling it to satisfy its hunger for domination. Appropriate measures should be taken against that government, which has been flouting international law, in order to force it to comply with the charter of the two international organizations which it freely endorsed.

ATP Comments on Nigerian Chad Seminar

AB251220 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Recently the Nigerian Government organized a seminar on Chad at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs. On this occasion, the Nigerian minister of foreign affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, made some observations which we examined last Tuesday. He said notably that his country was going to embark on an aggressive policy in order to find a solution to the Chadian crisis because of its effect on Nigeria's society.

In its Thursday, 22 March, issue, the CHADIAN PRESS AGENCY, ATP, (?examines) that statement by the Nigerian foreign minister. According to the agency, the merit of Gambari's statement lies in the fact that it makes it clear that Nigeria wants to play a more active role, but we learn very little about such an aggressive policy. The statement leaves the question unanswered.

During the same seminar, a Mr Olajide, whose position was not specified, gave us a few details on Nigeria's new policy on Chad. [words indistinct] The lecturer suggested three solutions: The first, as you already know, calls for Nigeria to side with one of the warring parties in Chad and thereby face the diplomatic and military problems that this solution entails. According to Professor Olajide, Nigeria would thus become a third party to the Chadian conflict with the intention of protecting its own national interests. It would thus play a role similar to that of Libya's. The third solution suggested by the lecturer is the most incomprehensible. He recommends that Chad [as heard] serve as a functional intermediary between the parties concerned. Which are the parites concerned? ATP asks.

[Words indistinct] Nigeria should seek bilateral contacts with Libya, Sudan, Zaire, and Egypt in order to request the participation of competent research institutes in that aggressive diplomatic offensive.

ATP observes that the Nigerian minister's statement and that of the lecturer pose the problem of the basis of Nigeria's external policy, notably on Chad. This change [words indistinct] may be positive because for the first time Nigeria seems about to adopt a clear position and to become aware that the danger facing our country can cross the border. It also shows our neighbor's determination no longer to remain a spectator or to limit itself to a mere mediative role. Henceforth, Nigeria wants to become involved in order to defend its national interests, as Prof Olajide Aluko said.

The first two proposals made by Professor Olajide give us a hint of the present trend in the policy of the Nigerian Government even though the professor was speaking on his own behalf: Either Nigeria will help one of the Chadian parties, or it will become a third party in the conflict. In both cases, it would intervene militarily.

Though we agree that Nigeria can justifiably adopt a position on the Chadian problem, such an interventionist (?policy) can result in many dangers. Before taking sides, Nigeria must clearly understand the very nature of the Chadian war. It must understand that the war has been imposed on Chad by Libya which is occupying half of our territory. In this regard, there are some Chadians who allow themselves to be used against their own people, against their own interests, and who have been won over to the Libyan annexationist designs.

At present, there are only three possible choices for any country that wants to get involved in the Chadian problem: It can either help the Chadian people safeguard their freedom, their independence, their territorial integrity, and national unity; it can side with the enemies, thus endorsing the policy aimed at liquidating Chad; or it can try to get its own share of Chad. In the last two case, such a country would become a mortal enemy which our people would fight the same way they are fighting Libya. Professor Olajide's third proposal seems so unrealistic to us that there is hardly any point in dwelling on it because we cannot imagine Chad giving up its sovereignty or allowing other countries to impose a solution on it. Neither can we imagine that research institutes — even the most competent — assuming the right to find a solution to the Chadian problem if this problem is not examined in all its crude aspects.

The professor's proposal to keep both President Habre and Goukouni Oueddei from power has not surprised us. It is taking up Libya's famous Libyan-inspired "Third-Man" theory which (?constitutes) the substance of the Chadian conflict. The war we are facing is not between individuals, but it is between two countries, one attacking the other.

In conclusion, ATP writes: Contrary to what Professor Olajide believes, that war will not end with the removal of President Habre. It will only end when Libya has completely conquered Chad and installed a man of its choice in Ndjamena.

Ministers Examine Draft Decrees on Airport Taxes

AB221350 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 22 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers this morning held its weekly meeting which had only one item on its agenda: airport taxes. The government did not make any decision. Here is a report by the information minister:

[Begin recording] The Council of Ministers held its ordinary session today, Thursday, 22 March 1984, under the chairmanship of Comrade Hissein Habre, president of the republic and head of state. The meeting examined five draft decrees presented by the minister of transport:

1. A draft decree modifying the tax payable for the parking of aircraft.

2. A draft decree modifying the tax payable for the use of airport installations for unloading goods.

3. A draft decree modifying the tax payable for the use of installations in certain airports for the landing of passengers.

4. A draft decree increasing the tax payable for the landing of aircraft and [word indistinct].

5. A draft decree introducing a tax on aircraft fuel.

The various speakers stressed the need to complete the dossier by the presentation of the regulations now in force and by indicating how these regulations compare with those of the various member countries of the Agency for Air Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar. The council therefore asked the minister of transport to complete the dossier and present it to another meeting of the council. [end recording]

RWANDA

President Habyarimana Begins 10-Day Visit to FRG

For reportage by DPA and other West German sources on President Juvenal Habyarimana's 10-day vist to the Federal Republic of Germany, see the Federal Republic of Germany section of the 26 March Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

ZAIRE

Authorities Seize Sabena Aircraft at Kinshasa

LD231821 Brussels in French to Africa 1600 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Excerpts] A Sabena DC-10 was seized last night at Kinshasa Airport. The Zairian (?authorities) were reacting to yesterday's seizure of an Air Zaire DC-8 at Oostende Airport. Sabena made it clear that all the passengers on its plane were transported to their destinations aboard other companies' aircraft. The Belgian Embassy in Kinshasa has strongly protested to the Zairian authorities over the seizure of the DC-10, which they consider to be [words indistinct]. According to a Foreign Ministry spokesman, it is a measure of retaliation without foundation on the part of the Zairian authorities as there is no possible link between the two incidents.

The seizure of the Air Zaire cargo plane in Oostende occurred after a verdict pronounced in Brussels a few weeks ago. We remind you that the Zairian company had in fact been fined 19 million [currency not specified] to be paid to one of their former pilots, a Belgian, (Vince Gautier), whose position was made redundant after several years of service within the framework of the Zairization of the company. (Vince Gautier) appealed to a Belgian tribunal who pronounced in his favor and in their turn ordered the seizure of an Air Zaire plane. This was done yesterday in Oostende.

It is now up to the lawyers to decide if this measure contravenes international treaties on public transport. Air Zaire still has the possibility of appealing and asking for the lifting of the plane's seizure. [words indistinct] and until then the Zairian aircraft will be held in Belgium.

GHANA

Dissidents Executed; Further Government Action

Troops Confined to Barracks

AB250645 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Three dissidents who were captured in special search and destroy operations were executed by firing squad yesterday. They are: Lance Corporal Halidu Giwa, Sergeant Malik, and Corporal Martin Ajumba. The three, together with Private Kwame Sekpo, were captured last Friday during the operations. An official statement said Private Sekpo died from wounds he sustained during an engagement between the dissidents and Army and police personnels. According to the statement, the four were among groups of dissidents who have infiltrated the country to create chaos and confusion by attacking vital civil and military installations and personnel.

It will be recalled that Giwa, Malik, and Ajumba were sentenced to death in abstentia following the abortive attempt to destabilize the government on 19 June last year. In a separate search and destroy operation ordered by the force commander and the inspector general of police, there were exchanges between them and police on the Ivorian border and at the new Prampram beach. The statement said some of the dissidents were wounded and have escaped. It is suspected that some of the dissidents are in hiding in towns and villages and the general public, and PDC's (People's Defense Committees) are being called upon to be on the look out for them and report any suspicious characters to the nearest police station or military barrack for straight military action. All troops are to be confined to barracks. There should be no troop movements without the authority of the force commander. The curfew hours have been changed. They are now from 10 p.m. to 0430 a.m. as from last night. The government, however, assures the public that the situation is under control.

Seven More Dissidents Killed

AB250740 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Following military operations against dissidents which began last Friday, (?a force) encountered a group of the dissidents on the run last night. According to an official statement, in the ensuing exchange of fire, seven of the dissidents were killed. Meanwhile, the combined military and police operations continue.

Ivory Coast, Togo Blamed

AB251410 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The quiet of this March weekend was shattered by news of another dissident action aimed at vital civil and military targets. The infiltrators have been engaged by loyal security forces at the Ivory Coast border and at Ningo-Prampram beach among other places. According to an official statement, three of the dissidents captured have been executed by firing squad. They are Lance Corporal Halidu Giwa, Sergeant Malik, and Corporal Martin Ajumba. All of them had been sentenced to death in abstentia for their part in the June 19 abortive coup. A fourth person, Private Kwame Sekpo died of wounds he sustained during the encounter with the forces. A police cum military search and destroy operation is in progress against the dissidents. So far, seven more of them have been killed in the operations. The latest action by the dissidents gives credence to the rumors that had been widespread in the country that a force of anti-government rebels had assembled in a neighboring country ready to invade Ghana. But the weekend events come after months of relative peace and quiet, at least on the surface. Indeed, so peaceful had been the last few months after the turbulence of June 19 that an anxious section of the civilian public feared that the security forces could be tempted to become complaisant and thus relax their vigilance. But the speed and confidence with which they have dealt with the infiltrators suggests that they had been on an uninterrupted alert.

It is not easy to ascribe any coherent political aim to the dissident faction. One thing that is clear, however, is that they are remnants of the group that attacked facilities of Radio Ghana on June 19 last year as well as those involved in the October 29, and November 23, 1982 attempted overthrow of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council]. The subsequent public trials of those involved show that the perpetrators were acting on the orders of former politicians and imperialist circles opposed to the democratic transformation going on in Ghana.

It is true some of those involved, like Lance Corporal Giwa, were part of the 31 December action and its aftermath. But the fact that they were willing to make common cause with people diametrically opposed to the 31 December process is not really surprising. History is replete with such renegades who begin as parts of noble revolutionary efforts but end up serving the cause of the enemy after selling their conscience for money. Examples from Angola include Jonas Savimbi and Holden Roberto, traitors to the cause of freedom they had espoused with Agostino Neto. Our own dissidents are not united by any political aim. They are merely traitors, soldiers of fortune, ready to destroy their country for a mess of imperialist pottage.

But they are being manipulated by people who know what they are about. Thus the timing of their current action is meant to frustrate the economic-recovery program just when things are poised for a take off. They must have reckoned that if they leave the country alone, the people will soon begin to see the fruits of their sacrifice under the recovery program, hence their decision to strike before this happens. But the people in their wisdom have seen through their motives. The reaction of a number of Ghanaians on the latest event is one of shock, anger, and dismay. A common remark heard over the weekend is that Ghana has had too much of these traumatic events and we should be left alone to see to the revival of the economy. The more active Ghanaians, especially the youths, have joined the PDC's [People's Defense Committees] in mounting road blocks in an attempt to help the armed forces and police to arrest the infiltrators. Eyewitnesses speak of spontaneous cheers from the public for the troops and

the police and the people's militia as they go about their job of tracking down the saboteurs.

Fianlly, if the general public is expected to cooperate in the current exercise, it is important that the government should take a strong stand with Togo and Ivory Coast over the dissidents' action. The initial reports about the whole episode are rather sketchy, but the fact that the enemies were encountered on the Ivory Coast border and again on Prampram Beach within a couple of hours' boat ride from Togo where many of them had taken refuge, suggests that the soil of these countries is still being used for subversion against Ghana. It is about time we made effective representations to get our two neighbors to abide by the spirit of the ECOWAS treaty.

People Will Resist Destabilization

AB260750 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The acting secretary to the NDC [National Defense Committee], Mr Yao Kwesi Sarpong, has pointed out that the people are prepared to stand up against destabilization through dissidents or the Western media. Addressing a rally at Darkuma in Accra, he said current developments show that imperialism is poised to hold the revolutionary process and he declared that the nation will never be deceived by diplomatic pretenses. Mr Kwesi Sarpong, who is also the secretary for PDC's [People's Defense Committees] and WDC's [Workers Defense Committees], again called on defense committees to be more alert and to check the activities of those who are bent on returning Ghana to a state of anarchy and confusion. He stressed that the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] owes its invincibility to the people. The government also derives its inspiration from the PDC's. He declared that the government will make concessions but the principles of the PDC's are not negotiable. Mr Kwesi Sarpong said the nation is bound to face food crisis for taking certain uncompromising stands, but if the people take to serious agriculture, this problem will be overcome.

Attempt To Free Plotters

AB261255 Paris AFP in French 1213 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Lome, 26 Mar (AFP) — An attempt to free the authors of the June 1983 abortive coup d'etat against Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings' regime took place last Friday in the Ghanaian capital, Accra, it was learned from a very good source in Lome on Monday.

According to this source, the attempt, which is believed to have failed, took place on Friday afternoon, and seven persons were said to have been killed in the operation. Late in the evening, Radio Ghana announced that the curfew now is in force from 2200 instead of from midnight to 0500 because of the attempt by the "dissidents" to free from detention the "19 June 1983 plotters," the same source indicated.

It was recalled that on 19 June 1983 some soldiers seized andheld for more than 2 hours the national radio situated in the center of Accra near the Army headquarters and freed about 60 detainees, most of whom were common law offenders. Many of these plotters were later taken prisoner.

It was recalled that last Sunday, Radio Ghana affirmed that the fighting between the demonstrators — hostitle to Flight Lieutenant Rawlings' regime in power since 31 December 1981 — and the police resulted in the death of seven persons. (?According to a report the AFP correspondent) in Lome was able to receive from Accra on Monday morning, the situation in the Ghanaian capital is calm, and normal activities have resumed after the Sunday rest. No demonstrations took place on Saturday or Sunday in Accra, which experienced a weekend free of incidents while languishing in the torpor of the hot season. The police controls in the city as well as in the outskirts of the capital were "relaxed" as usual, it was also learned.

Cuban Delegation Departs After Signing of Communique

AB231844 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 23 Mar 84

["Ghana Newsreel"]

[Text] The foreign affairs minister of Cuba, Mr Isidoro Malmierca, and his official delegation left Accra this morning after a 5-day visit to Ghana. In a communique at the end of the visit, Cuba and Ghana emphasized the need to make serious efforts to implement a new economic order to afford handicapped countries some measures of development. George Dzowornu takes up the story:

[Begin recording] Relations between Ghana and Cuba have been growing warmer by the day. It has seen a number of contacts which are to the mutual benefit of both sides. The latest example was the 5-day visit to Ghana by an official delegation at the head of which was the foreign minister of Cuba, Mr Isidoro Malmierca. The period of tours and discussions with Ghana government officials should open the doors to more close accords between the two countries. There was coincidence of views and subjects discussed with the two sides voicing out their satisfaction and determinaiton to make the best of what has been achieved.

The secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah, who hosted the visitors, and the Cuban foreign minister, Mr Malmierca, did sign a communique detailing some of the agreements on economic, cultural and historic issues.

Studying the international economic situation, Ghana and Cuba stressed that an energetic effort must be taken to implement a new international economic order which will afford backward people some appreciable measures of economic development. They mentioned the importance of the role of the nonaligned countries in the context of international politics and stressed that forces need to be joined in searching for solutions to problems of developing countries.

Ghana and Cuba emphasized that it is necessary to maintain cohesion and unity in the OAU and gave their solidarity and support to the Polisario Front in its struggle for self-determination for the SDAR. Solidarity and support also went to SWAPO in Namibia and ANC of South Africa. The two

foreign ministers renewed their support for the frontline states and Lesotho against South Africa's aggressive activities, and called for a withdrawal of South African troops from Angola without conditions.

Ghana denounced U.S. hostility against Cuba for over 20 years. She added that the Cuban revolution will be a permanent source of inspiration for all people struggling to wipe out injustice and oppression.

The two delegations expressed their satisfaction with the strengthening relations between the peoples and governments of Ghana and Cuba. Mr Malmierca admired the efforts at reconstruction by Ghanaians led by Flight Lieutenant Rawlings and guided by the ideals of freedom and justice of Dr Kwame Nkrumah.

At the airport prior to departure, Mr Malcierca stated that he had discussions with some parents of Ghanaian students in Cuba and promised that back home he would visit them and inform the students about events in Ghana.

The delegation has flown off to Upper Volta for a series of engagements there in the next few days. [end recording]

Egypt's Ghali Holds Meetings, Concludes Visit

'New Stage' in Relations

NC231500 Cairo MENA in English 1420 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 23 (MENA) — State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali will hand a message today from President Husni Mubarak to President Jerry John Rawlings of Ghana during their meeting in Accra today.

Dr Ghali has conferred yesterday with Secretary for Foreign Affairs Dr Obed Asamoah on a number of African issues and means of fostering bilateral relations in the different fields. The meetings were attended by Ambassador Ahmad Sidqi, director of the Department of Africa at the Foreign Ministry and Fathi al-Juwayli, Egypt's ambassador to Ghana.

Dr Ghali expressed hope that his talks in Accra would open a new stage in relations between Egypt and Ghana.

Dr Ghali has conferred also in Accra with Cuban Foreign Affairs Minister People Isidoro Octavio Malmierca on developments of the situation in South Africa, the problem of Namibia and means of combatting racial discrimination in South Africa.

Dr Ghali has arrived in Accra on Wednesday at the final leg of his African tour he started last Saturday and has covered Upper Volta, Nigeria, and Ghana.

Message From Mubarak

NC231737 Cairo MENA in English 1720 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Accra, March 23 [MENA] — President Jerry John Rawlings received a message today from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak dealing with a number of international and African issues of joint interest.

The message was handed to President Rawlings during his meeting today with Egyptian State Minister for Foreign Affaires Dr Butrus Ghali who is currently visiting Ghana.

President Mubarak's message dealt as well with Egypt's clear-cut position as regards the African and international issues.

President Mubarak also directed an invitation to President Rawlings to visit Egypt, Dr. Ghali said following the meeting.

The meeting dealt with means of consolidating the Egyptian-Ghanese relations in the different economic, trade, cultural, and technical fields and also on organizing the diplomatic efforts as regards the important African issues.

President Rawlings has accepted President Mubarak's invitation and is due to visit Egypt within the coming few months, Dr. Ghali said.

He lauded the position of President Rawlings as regards the Egyptian-Ghanese relations and his willingness to open a new stage in the bilateral relations.

Dr Ghali has earlier met with the prime minister of Ghana, the ministers of agriculture and trade.

Meanwhile, a trade agreement between Egypt and Ghana is scheduled to be concluded within the coming few weeks according to which Ghana will import Egyptian cotton yarn and will export wood to Egypt.

Communique Issued

AB241430 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 24 Mar 84

["Ghana Newsreel"]

[Text] The secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah, and the Egyptian minister of state for external relations, Dr Butrus Ghali, have again pledged their countries' strong commitment to the principles of the OAU, the United Nations and the Non-aligned Movement. The pledges were in a communique signed in Accra after the visit of Dr Ghali to Ghana. The story is from (Charles Kwenu):

[Begin recording] The deep concern of Egypt over a number of regional, continental and global matters got Dr Butrus Ghali into a four-nation tour early this month. He discussed issues of common concern [words indistinct] before coming back to Africa. Dr Ghali, as the Egyptian minister for external relations, talked over African issues on his first stop in Upper Volta. He was granted audience by government officials at his next port of call, Nigeria. And when he reached Ghana, one of his most important engagements was when he delivered a special message from his country's leader, Husni Mubarak, to the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] chairman, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings.

His host was the secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah, and when the two men got down to talks, the concept of historial ties between the peoples of Ghana and Egypt afforded a cordial exchange of views.

In the final communique, they agreed that their bilateral relations and cooperation need a further boost. This will further bolster the February agreement between Ghana and the Egyptian fund for technical assistance to Africa. The Egyptian delegation and Dr Ghali assured Ghana that the technicians and experts required under the agreement in the specific fields will be made available. Efforts should also be enhanced to achieve an early signing of the protocol of a trade agreement concluded in 1969. Negotiations should as well be initiated at the technical level for cultural exchanges between Ghana and Egypt.

As old partners in the struggle for African liberation, Dr Obed Asamoah and Dr Ghali renewed the pledges of Ghana and Egypt to uphold the principles of the OAU, the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement. On Africa's trouble spots, the two countries said the Western Sahara problem must be solved through resolutions adopted at OAU summits. They therefore called on the relevant implementation committee to convene soon to pursue efforts to settle the dispute.

Ghana and Egypt view with concern the Namibian situation and demanded from South Africa a speedy and unconditional implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence. They expressed their moral support for the frontline states in their confrontation with South Africa.

On the Middle East, the two sides agreed that just global and durable settlements are attainable through respect for relevant OAU and UN resolutions. Israel, Ghana and Egypt stressed, must pull out its troops from Lebanon and reaffirm support for national reconciliation in that country to guarantee its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The communique added that Dr Obed Asamoah had consented to visit Egypt and the two foreign ministers agreed that a date will be worked out through diplomatic channels. Dr Butrus Ghali has flown to the Swiss capital of Geneva. [end recording]

GUINEA-BISSAU

No Safe Conduct for Former Prime Minister

AB231000 Paris AFP in English 0939 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Lisbon, Mar 23 [AFP] — Guinea-Bissau will not give a safe conduct out of the country to former Prime Minister Victor Saude Maria, who has taken refuge in the Portuguese Embassy, Guinea-Bissau Foreign Minister Fidelis Cabral Almada said here last night. However, he added after talks with Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares that his government's attitude could change.

Mr Soares himself said that Portugal had interceded with Guina-Bissau President Doao Bernardo Vieira in Mr Saude Maria's favour "for humanitarian reasons."

Mr Saude Maria fled to the embassy more than a week ago after being dismissed from his post. General Vieira said that he had been plotting a coup.

Diplomatic Relations To Be Established With Kampuchea

AB250950 Paris AFP in French 1357 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Bissau, 24 Mar [AFP] — Guinea-Bissau and Kampuchea have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. This was contained in a statement issued in Bissau on Saturday. The decision was made following the 3-day visit of Kampuchean Foreign Minister Hen Sun to Bissau.

During the visit, the Guinea-Bissau acting foreign minister, Filinto Barros, and the Kampuchean minister discussed in particular the situation in East Timor and decided to intensify their efforts to obtain the immediate withdrawal of the Indonesian troops from that territory, the statement pointed out.

NIGERIA

Buhari Receives SWAPO's Nujoma 23 March

AB231815 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The head of state, Major General Mohammadu Buhari, today received in audience the leader of SWAPO, Sam Nujoma. Details of their discussions are not yet available, but the Radio Nigeria Dodan Barracks correspondent quotes the SWAPO leader as saying that the people of Namibia will fight to the last drop of their blood in their bid to secure independence for their territory. Mr Nujoma, who was speaking with journalists after seeing the head of state, praised the Federal Government for its assistnce to SWAPO and other liberation movements, as well as its leadership role in Africa.

Assurance of Continued Support

AB232221 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Nigeria has assured SWAPO that it would continue to put the issue of Namibia's independence in the forefront of its African policy. This was stated today at Dodan Barracks by the head of state while receiving the leader of SWAPO, Sam Nujoma. General Buhari stated that the minister of external affairs would undertake a tour of the frontline states to fully assess the current situation in the region. The head of state, who congratulated the recently released SWAPO leader, Toivo ja Toivo, who accompanied Nujoma on the visit, expressed the hope that Mr Toivo's presence would contribute to the total liberation of Namibia. Mr Nujoma had earlier briefed the head of state on the progress of the liberation struggle, both inside and outside Namibia. He requested Nigeria's diplomatic and moral assistance in view of the recent developments in southern Africa where racist South Africa was conniving with the superpowers to erode the support of liberation movements and the frontline states.

Speaking with Dodan Barracks correspondents at the end of the talks, Mr Nujoma said that the situation in Namibia was very critical, more so, since the racist had resorted to torture and repression of the blacks and the shooting at sight of its innocent citizens. Mr Nujoma accused the racist regime of adopting delay tactics on the question of Namibia's independence.

Gambari Expresses Support for W. Sahara People

AB241329 Lagos NAN in English 1305 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Kano, Mar 24 [NAN] — The minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, said in Kano yesterday that Nigeria was in full support of the people of Western Sahara in their struggle for self-determination.

Dr Gambari, who was on his way to Bagauda, told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that the country could not, however, recognise the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) because of its membership in the implementation committee on Western Sahara.

He said that Nigeria as a member of the committee had appealed to Morocco to be flexible so that a peaceful solution could be found to the seemingly intractable problem.

Upper Volta early this month became the 28th African country to recognise the SADR, which is opposed by the Moroccan Government which claims the area.

Britain Asked Not To Harbor Ex-Politicians

AB260922 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Nigeria has appealed to Britain not to harbor ex-politicians who absconded from the country after committing grave economic crimes. The zonal director of information service in Western Europe, Moses Ikpo, made the plea at the weekend at a discussion panel on Nigeria held under the aegis of the Royal Commonwealth and the Royal African Societies in London. He said that the change of government was to end mass suffering in Nigeria as well as to stop the country from further drifting. Mr Ikpo told the audience that those politicians now detained but who had questions to answer over their conduct as public officers will be given opportunity to defend themselves before properly constituted legal tribunals which the government was setting up.

Also speaking at the gathering, a former British high commissioner to Nigeria, Sir Melvin Brown, said that Nigeria still upheld the principles of democracy, freedom of the press, and the rule of law. Sir Melvin added that Nigeria with her large population would be impossible to rule without the consent of the people which was what democracy was all about.

UPPER VOLTA

Cuban Foreign Minister Malmierca Arrives for Visit

AB231846 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Cuban minister of foreign affairs arrived in Ouagadougou at 1145 this morning for an official visit to our country. He was welcomed on arrival by his Upper Voltan counterpart, Arba Diallo, and many ambassadors accredited to our country. The Cuban minister of foreign affairs arrived from Accra where he and his Ghanaian counterpart yesterday signed a cooperation agreement.

ANGOLA

Huila Commissioner Lists Successes Against 'Bandits'

AB231748 Luanda ANGOP in French 1430 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Lubango, 23 Mar (ANGOP) — Lieutenant Colonel Rafael Sapilinha "Sambalanga," provincial commissioner for Huila, recently announced in Lubango, the chief town of the province, that since the creation of the regional military councils, the Angolan Armed Forces have killed 106 bandits and taken 66 others prisoner in the 5th Military Region, comprising the provinces of Huila, Cunene, and Namibe.

Speaking during an interview granted to the local press, Rafael Sapilinha, who is also chairman of the Military Council of the 5th Region, said that the fight against the puppet bands has been very favorable to the Angolan troops and affirmed that the counterrevolutionary bands are now faced with numerous difficulties in their movement following the reinforcement of the Angolan Armed Forces' actions.

In this connection, the Huila provincial commissioner mentioned some important factors resulting from the demoralization of the enemy, particularly the capture of several plans drawn up by the puppets, the failure of their attacks, and the neutralization of their "secret hideouts" in some urban and suburban centers. The Huila provincial commissioner announced that the successes achieved by the Angolan troops included the liberation of more than 8,000 persons being detained by the puppet elements and the recovery of about 4,000 head of cattle in [words indistinct]. The Angolan forces also recovered 48 light weapons, 4 heavy weapons, 18 shells, as well as some grenades, ammunition, mines, and some communications equipment, he said.

In conclusion, the Angolan leader said that the bandits' main operation zones are situated near towns with agricultural and stockbreeding enterprises, particularly Chipindo, Caconda, Cacula, Kalukembe, and Chicomba, where they subject the populations to all sorts of harassment, forcing them to supply them with food, and subjecting them to other inhuman acts like assassination and kidnapping.

BOTSWANA

Masire Speaks at BDP National Meeting Council

MB250502 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, has said that the Botswana Democratic Party [BDP] will go to the polls this year in the strongest position it has ever been in since it came into existence. He said the party deserves big (?support) because of the efforts that is has put into political mobilization in Botswana. The president also said while morale was high in the party, the BDP should not lose sight of the fact that it had to mount a hard campaign to win the elections convincingly.

Dr Masire was officially opening the National Council meeting of the BDP at the Denman rural training center in (Sibili) this morning. The president also addressed himself to the untapped voters in the BDP. He said if there was a party which did not get its due number of votes, that was the BDP. Dr Masire attributed this to complacency, adding that there were many people who maintained that they had already given the BDP a mandate, and that they saw no need to do it again. But the president reminded such people that it was a constitutional requirement that this mandate should be reviewed every 5 years. The meeting will also receive the secretary general's report and discuss the president's speech.

LESOTHO

Information Minister Sixishe Rules Out Pact With RSA

MB250657 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Lesotho will not sign a nonaggression pact with South Africa. That is according to Lesotho's information minister, Desmond Sixishe. He has said in an interview that as long as South Africa maintains its racial policies, no good will come of the attempt to normalize relations in southern Africa. Sixishe said Lesotho could not sign a nonaggression pact with South Africa because such an agreement had to be concluded between countries with a history of conflict. He said no such situation existed between Pretoria and Maseru.

Call for Provisional Government Said Due to RSA

MB231200 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The motion calling for the formation of a provisional government, which is being debated in parliament, has been described by the minister of agriculture, the Honorable P. N. Peete, as having the element of foreign influence. The minister said this during a debate on the motion by Mr M. Mokoruane calling for the formation of the provisional government representative of all political parties and some chiefs.

The Honorable Peete said that South Africa is attempting all sorts of tricks to interfere in the internal politics of Lesotho with the aim of overthrowing its legal government.

MALAWI

Transport Minister Returns, Praises Nkomati Pact

AB231052 Dakar PANA in English 1011 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Blantyre, 23 Mar (MANA/PANA) — The Nkomati accord signed between Mozambique and South Africa on 16 March is of significance to the whole of the southern Africa region, Malawi Minister of Transport and Communications Edward Bwanali said last night.

In an interview with the MALAWI NEWS AGENCY (MANA) at Chileka Airport on arrival from Mozambique after a week-long official visit, Mr Bwanali said the Nkomati pact "was a milestone for the whole southern Africa region."

He stated that the accord would improve the tense situation not only between the two signatories but also between South Africa and all the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) member-states of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Mr Bwanali, who represented President Kamuzu Banda at the signing ceremony, said that Malawi hoped that the pact would be faithfully implemented. Malawi had a special interest in the accord because its external trade routes had been disrupted by Mozambican anti-government rebels, said Mr Bwanli, who also held bilateral talks with Mozambican Government leaders. "One of our main ports is Beira which, as you know, has been lying idle for most of the last two years," he told his Mozambican opposite number in Maputo, Alcantara Santos, minister of ports, railways and shipping.

On the bilateral discussions, the Malawi minister said these would strengthen the relations between Malawi and Mozambique in the transport and communications sectors. "We were impressed with the physical development of the infrastructures taking place in the ports of Beira, Nacala and Maputo," said the minister.

Mr Bwanali, who led a three-man delegation to Maputo, added that he was pleasantly surprised to see very few Malawi goods when he visited the sheds at Nacala port, and said there was need for Malawi to make full use of Nacala. He said he hoped Malawi would use other routes through Nacala and Harare to lessen the congestion at the port of Beira which has been there for some years now.

"We have established what the problems are," he said, adding that what remained was for the two countries to meet regularly at ministerial level as well as railway officials in both countries to solve these problems.

MOZAMBIQUE

President Lauds Nkomati Accord at Pemba Rally

MB261035 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 26 Mar 84

[Text] Samora Machel, the chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, said yesterday that the recent treaty of nonaggression and good neighborliness signed between Mozambique and South Africa will allow the Mozambique people to develop the country in a climate of peace and tranquillity. Marshal Samora Machel was speaking in Pemba, capital of Cabo Delgado Province, where he arrived early yesterday afternoon and was greeted by 5,000 people. The supreme leader of the Mozambique revolution stressed that it was for the purpose of living in peace that the Mozambique people took up arms and fought against colonialism.

He added that after winning independence, the Mozambique people were the target of the aggressions of the former regime of Rhodesia. President Samora Machel then said that the Mozambican people supported unconditionally the Zimbabwean people in the political, diplomatic, moral, and even military fields. The Mozambique head of state said that the actual task of our people is the reconstruction of our motherland, the defense of territorial integrity, sovereignty, and the revolution, and the construction of socialism.

Frelimo Political Bureau Issues Anniversary Appeal

MB251127 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1100 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Appeal by the Political Bureau of the Frelimo Party Central Committee on the 20th anniversary of the beginning of the armed struggle for national liberation issued in Maputo on 23 March]

[Text] Mozambique men and women: On 25 September 1984, we are going to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the beginning of the armed struggle of national liberation. The date of 25 September is one of the greatest dates of our history. It is a day which the Mozambique people as whole, from the Rovuma River to the Maputo River, mark with profound happiness and patriotic and revolutionary enthusiasm. On 25 September, we commemorate the act of liberation, that is, the first gunshots fired 20 years ago in Cabo Delgado, Niassa, Zambezia, and Tete against the colonial power that used to oppress, exploit, and humiliate us. Those first shots, while echoing in the minds of each Mozambican, triggered the eagerness for liberty that prevailed among all of us. They proved that the oppressor was vulnerable and showed us the correct path to defeat him. On 25 September, we commemorate the struggle for national liberation — forge of our unity as a people and forge of our existence as a nation. In the armed struggle we discovered the equality of Mozambicans, without distinction as to tribe, race, or region, before a common enemy, equal in the same desire for freedom, in the interests shared by all, and in the sacrifices made by all. In the armed struggle, we learned the concept of fatherland. In the armed struggle for national liberation, we found ourselves as revolutionaries. In the fight against the new exploiters who emerged in our midst, we waged a class struggle as part of the national liberation struggle. We learned to define the specific content of the freedom we wanted and brought about the triumph of the aspirations of the workers. Thus we commemorate the day of the revolution on 25 September and pay tribute to those who always knew how to be the spearhead of our lance, the unfailing arm pointed at the enemy's heart, the heroes of our liberation and the mirror and pride of the people — the Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique, FPLM. The commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the unleashing of the armed struggle for national liberation means that this year we celebrate 20 years of uninterrupted combat. After achieving independence, our young country was the target of continuous aggression, which has never permitted us to lay down our guns so that we could hold the spade with both hands and build wealth, abundance, and well-being for and our children and ourselves. In commemorating 25 September 1984, we celebrate 20 years of victory, heroism, and sacrifice freely accepted and made. We celebrate the heroes of the armed struggle for national liberation and also those who, today, in the struggle against the armed bandits, stand up as the legitimate heirs of the glorious traditions of the FPLM.

Mozambique men and women: Hope for peace arises for our people for the first time in this year of the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the beginning of the armed struggle for national liberation. For the first time since the colonial aggression against our country several centuries ago, for the time since we took up arms against colonialism 20 years ago, we see opening before us the prospect for peace and a concrete possibility of peacefully building the future we choose. This possibility, this prospect, and this hope stem from the signing of the nonaggression and good neighborliness accord between the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of South Africa on 16 March 1984 in Nkomati. The signing of this accord constitutes an all-important step toward the achievement of our objectives and the historic victory of our party's policy of peace, once again reaffirmed by the fourth congress last year.

Mozambique men and women: The most correct way to celebrate this 25 September would be to engage ourselves with still greater determination in implementing our party's fourth congress decisions; it would be to vigorously advance the fight against famine and nakedness and the struggle for the complete annihilation of the armed bandits. In the economic field, we must use our experience of selfless socialist work and supplementary plans so that we may increase production and productivity in all sectors, based in particular on local resources and initiatives. Each district should eleborate a concrete program with a view to better using its resources and capabilities within the framework of the commemorations. We should pay special attention to organizing and developing production as well as to marketing excess products. The consolidation and expansion of the consumer cooperatives network should form part of that program too, so that the people may be better served. Animal and other forms of transportation must be studied and implemented so that fuel may be saved.

In all fields, it is up to us to develop small projects based on local resources which do not demand great investments and may offer immediate satisfaction to the people's needs. At the level of cities and wards, plans must be outlined in order to organize and control supplies better by resolutely fighting smuggling. The state production units must draw up programs that will guarantee greater technical and material support to the agricultural and handcraft cooperatives as well as for private farmers. Priority must be given to more efficient utilization of raw materials, implements, and production equipment in industrial enterprises in order to reduce production costs and increase productivity and work efficiency. Special attention must be paid to the organization and consolidation of groups of innovators and inventors so that technical innovation can guarantee the recovery and maintenance of equipment and the increase of productivity through the full utilization of material resources and technical capabilities available in each area.

Within the context of defense, the commemorations of 25 September should be an occasion for the Armed Forces to intensify actions of detection, siege, and annihilation of the armed bandits. In order to guarantee even greater successes, the Armed Forces must continue their political and organizational efforts, particularly the intensification of political work in the Army. The link between the people and the Armed Forces must be intensified and strengthened throughout this phase by means of concrete actions to be initiated and coordinated by the party.

Police and security forces must intensify the combat against smugglers and antisocial and criminal elements, thus guaranteeing law and order throughout the country. Each police and security organization must draw up concrete programs of actions to celebrate 25 September, while paying particular heed to their link with the people. The Operation Production clampdown must be pursued with greater vigor so that our cities may be cleared of miscreants and unproductive people may be sent to production centers.

The active and direct participation of the people in defense and vigilance tasks is an essential precondition for victory. During this period, the people's militia and vigilance groups must be reorganized so that they can efficiently lead the people in these tasks. As a fundamental condition for these tasks, the party should ensure the correct leadership in the process at all levels and in all areas. This implies guaranteeing the dynamic running of the party organs and structures so that they may more efficiently perform their leading role at each level. During this phase, the vitalization of the party's grassroot bodies must be carried out. The party will draw inspiration from the productive experience lived in preparation for the fourth congress. This experience demonstrated once again that our work is successful when popular and democratic methods are employed and when the people are involved in the solution of their problems.

Each party cell must have a concrete plan to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the unleashing of the struggle for national liberation. One aspect of the party's revitalization must be the growth of cells and an increase in number of members. As part of the 25 September commemorations we must set up new cells in those areas where the party is not yet organized, giving priority to the sectors in the frontline of the struggle against famine, nakedness, and armed banditry. In all existing cells, the emphasis must be on obtaining new members for the party. It is necessary to balance in this process, as always, the need for the party's numerical growth with care in the selection of candidates. To revitalize the party's work, greater attention should be paid to strengthening local party groups, as they are the ones which ensure the proper functioning of the grassroot structures.

A priority task of the local party organs is the vitalization of the people's assemblies at various levels in general, and at area levels in particular. It is necessary to guarantee that the local organizations of the people keep democracy alive by involving all members of the public in the discussion of problems as well as in the definition, realization, and control of tasks. It is also necessary to implement the principle that local government organs account for their activities to the people's assemblies at the respective levels.

The mass democratic organizations play a unique role in the mobilization of people and in leading people's initiatives, within the context of the commemorations. All mass democratic organizations, as well as socio-professional associations, must define programs of actions at both central and local levels. Each worker, each woman, and each youth must have a concrete and specific

task in support of the 25 September commemorations to salute the glorious FPLM.

Mozambique men and women: The struggle which began on 25 September 1964 continues today in every factory, in every communal village, in every cooperative, in every state farm, in every harbor complex, in every fishing center, in every mine, in every timber factory, in every workshop, in every hospital, in every school, in every department of the civil service, in every village, in every ward, and in every place where our people live and work. The struggle continues today in the combat against illiteracy and ignorance, famine and nakedness, in the combat for increased production and productivity, in the struggle for the implementation of the goals outlined in state plans and in the efforts to solve our economic problems.

The struggle, which began on 25 September 1964, continues today as every unit of the defense and security forces maintains heightened vigilance against enemy actions for the defense of law and order.

In the framework of the commemorations of the 20th anniversary of the unleashing of the armed struggle for national liberation, we must decisively pursue the political and organizational offensive. With the more favorable conditions created by the Nkomati accord, we must intensify the struggle against the corruption, bureaucracy, apathy, negligence, squandering, carelessness, laziness, lack of punctuality, and absenteeism.

We must make the commemorations of the 20th anniversary of the unleashing of the armed struggle for national liberation a pinnacle of mobilization of the people in the implementation of our party's fourth congress decisions. Let us everyday live the heroic spirit of 25 September by engaging ourselves with greater decision in the combat against illiteracy and ignorance, famine and nakedness and in the struggle for the complete annihilation of the armed bandits.

The struggle continues. The revolution shall win. Socialism shall triumph. Maputo, 23 March 1984.

Police Raid Home of Slovo, Other ANC Members

MB251025 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Mozambique police have raided several homes of ANC members in Maputo. According to ANC officials, heavily armed police searched the houses for arms and ammunition. They say no one was arrested. They also say that some of the houses were broken into by the police and thorough searches carried out. One of the houses raided was the home of ANC strategist Joe Slovo. It is the first such raid since the signing of the Nkomati Accord a week ago. The agreement between South Africa and Mozambique is to ensure that neither country allows itself to be used as a base for attacks on the other. Observers say the raids were staged to enable Mozambique to prove to South Africa that it is taking action against the ANC when the joint commission meets tomorrow to review the accord.

Government Confirms 'Crackdown'

MB251312 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Mozambique has confirmed a crackdown on the ANC. Government officials in Maputo confirmed today that police raided and searched homes of ANC members yesterday. The officials say the searches, involving more than one dozen homes of ANC supporters in Maputo, were for arms, following the signing of the Nkomati accord with South Africa 10 days ago. The nonaggression pact bars each country from allowing its territory to be used as a launching pad for attacks against the other.

OAU Liberation Committee Official on Nkomati Accord

MB240603 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The editorial desk of Radio Mozambique continues to note reaction to the signing of the Nkomati accord from all parts of the world and from statesmen in politics, economics, and finance.

What Mozambique has done is to try to ensure peace for Mozambique in particular and southern Africa in general. This was said by Hashim Mbita, executive secretary of the OAU Liberation Committee, today at a press conference in Maputo. Mbita, who arrived in the Mozambique capital yesterday, was received yesterday by President Samora Machel, with whom he held talks on the current situation in southern Africa.

The executive secretary of the OAU Liberation Committee is currently touring the frontline states to hold talks on the situation in this region and to meet with leaders of the liberation movements on types of support and the means of rendering it.

Messages of congratulations and greetings from various parts of the world continue to be received in Maputo by the supreme party and government leadership on the nonaggression and good neighborliness accord signed between the South African and Mozambique Governments. Hashim Mbita, who expressed his support for the accord during the meeting with the Mozambique head of state, once again reiterated this support to journalists at a press conference this morning. The agreement between Mozambique and South Africa is an effort by the Mozambique Government to ensure peace in its country in particular and in southern Africa in general, said Hashim Mbita, who continued:

[Begin Mbita recording in English fading into Portuguese translation] I find it to be a positive move for peace — a commodity that Africa is looking for all the time. That is why we do not find the accord — no matter how one looks at it — contradictory to our continuous effort to achieve Namibia's independence and the elimination of apartheid in South Africa. In this process, there are two different aspects. One is to achieve peace between neighboring countries, and the other is to maintain our different opinions, which is not unusual. We know that elsewhere in the world, people live in peace, notwithstanding their differing opinions on some aspects of their existence. [end recording]

It appears that the South Africa regime is trying to use the accord signed with our country to break the international isolation by persuading its Western allies to support its efforts to end the cultural boycott and the arms embargo. Hashim Mbita denounced this maneuver by the Pretoria regime and called on the international community to maintain its isolation.

[Begin Mbita recording in English fading into Portuguese translation] Mozambique has renewed its solidarity with the South African people through the ANC by giving the ANC diplomatic and political support until apartheid is eliminated in South Africa. Now we call on the international community to continue the campaign to isolate South Africa because of its apartheid policy.

There is no pact between the people of South Africa and the South African Government to end apartheid. Thus, we can only hope that we can end the isolation of the Pretoria regime when the causes of the isolation disappear. This will occur when South Africa opts for equality, respect for human rights, and the abolition of the abominable apartheid policy within its territory. [end recording]

The situation in Namibia was also analysed by the executive secretary of the OAU Libaration Committee, who said that until now nothing positive has been done to implement UN Security Council Resolution 435.

[Mbita in English fading into Portuguese translation] In January, some efforts were made to implement the resolution, and we hail these efforts. But unfortunately, as you know, the South African foreign minister said yesterday that he was insisting on the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola as a precondition for the implementation of Resolution 435. I must reiterate that such demands are alien to the resolution. There is still an unwillingness on the part of South Africa to move towards independence of Namibia by peaceful means. I must say that military confrontation with the South African regime in Namibia has reached a very advanced stage, and that in order to avoid more loss of human lives, human suffering, and the destruction of property and economic and social infrastructure, South Africa must make an effort to apply Resolution 435. Africa is ready to support genuine efforts for the peaceful settlement of the Namibia issue. If this does not work, Africa is also ready to continue supporting the Namibian people, led by SWAPO, in any other manner they choose to attain their independence. [end recording]

The executive secretary of the OAU Liberation Committee leaves Maputo tomorrow for Zimbabwe to continue his tour of the frontline states.

Military Operations Against 'Armed Bandits' Touted
MB250932 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0605 GMT 25 Mar 84

[From the "Armed Forces Voice of Combat" program]

[Text] In an operation aimed at finding an armed bandit boat which had been sunk in Chokwe, our armed forces have succeeded in retrieving AKM weapons, ammunition cases, mines, 60-mm mortars, and haversacks containing military uniforms.

In the region of Lake (Fukwe) in Chibuto, our forces captured a boat carrying 60-mm mortars, mines, 81-mm mortars, bazooka rockets, and ammunition cases. Reports from Chibuto further say that from 15 to 19 March, our forces killed eight armed bandits, captured seven others, and seized additional military equipment.

In other regions of the country, our armed forces, pursuing their offensive, killed 26 bandits, captured 3, and wounded many others. They also seized rifle magazines, hand grenades, 60-mm mortars, mines, and AKM automatic rifles and retrieved cattle, record players, blankets, a sewing machine, and a bicycle.

69 Surrender in Zambezia
MB241223 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] A total of 69 bandits have surrendered to the FPLM in Zambezia Province over the past 2 months. A source in the office of the chief of General Staff of the FPLM, who was cited by the newspaper *NOTICIAS*, said that this figure is the result of an increased number of desertions taking place in the ranks of the armed bandits in the past few days. The source added that some of the bandits stated that they have voluntarily surrendered because they understood they were being used against their own people and that they would shortly be abandoned by those who used to lead them.

It should be noted that in other provinces, dozens of armed bandits have surrendered to our armed forces in the past few weeks.

NAMIBIA

Paper Alleges 1,000 Civilians Questioned on Voting
MB241315 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] An estimated 1,000 civilians in northern Namibia have been rounded up at gunpoint and asked how they would vote in an election. A Johannesburg newspaper has reported that Ovamboland residents were herded together and asked whether they would vote for South Africa [as heard] or SWAPO. The report says that each person was photographed and their name and answer taken down. The South-West Africa Territorial Force has refused to comment on the allegations.

Head of the powerful Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia, Bishop (Cleopas Temeni), yesterday condemned the round-ups. (Temeni) claims that the South African Army has been moving in different parts of the country since 15 March, in his words, seizing and detaining people. An Army spokesperson says that this is part of normal operations following terrorist incursions a few weeks ago.

SWATF: Questioning Concerned SWAPO

MB241236 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] A spokesman for the South-West Africa Territorial Force, Major Geoff Hill, has told our representative in Windhoek that civilians in northern Ovambo have been questioned during the past few weeks as part of a follow-up operation against SWAPO infiltration into the area. Major Hill was reacting to BBC reports that soldiers of the Territorial Force had allegedly questioned residents of Ovambo and Kavango about their choice of a political party should elections be held in South-West Africa.

According to the BBC report, an unknown number of civilians were held and then questioned by the security forces. Major Hill emphasized that the actions of the Territorial Forces had been part of a specific follow-up action against SWAPO, and had been aimed at protecting the residents of the region.

British Author Released After 3-Week Detention

MB241231 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] SAPA reports that the British author, Mr Richard Roberts, who was detained in South-West Africa 3 weeks ago, has been released. The administrator-general's private secretary, Mr Chris Kamp, confirmed the release. Mr Roberts is the author of the book "The Russing File," which is banned in South-West Africa and South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA

ANC's Tambo Says Operations Not Affected by Pact

MB231637 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1600 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Oliver Tambo, president of the ANC of South Africa, has said in London that the Nkomati accord will not affect the military operations of his movement. The weapons are in South Africa, Oliver Tambo said. He denied reports claiming that the ANC's attacks had been or are being launched from Mozambique.

Comparison of ANC's Mbeki on Nkomati Accord

Addis Ababa Radio Freedom in English to South Africa at 1930 GMT on 24 March carried a report with recorded portions of an interview given by ANC Information Director Tavo Mbeki on the RSA nonaggression pact with Mozambique. This version has been compared with the version broadcast at 1930 GMT on 22 March and published on pages U 6 and 7 in the Southern Africa section of the 23 March Middle East and Africa *DAILY REPORT* and found to be identical, with the following exception:

Last paragraph, last line of the 24 March version reads...of South Africa.

I am quite certain that comrades in Mozambique are perfectly aware of that and I am certain if any agreements are reached between the independent states of the region and the Pretoria regime, whatever the nature of those agreements, they cannot change the objective situation in the (?region). The apartheid system will continue, our people will continue to be colonially oppressed, our people will continue to be exploited, our people will continue to be harassed and deprived [words indistinct] fascist regime and so on whatever agreements are reached in the region.

And therefore, naturally the people of South Africa will continue to struggle. And I think that is perfectly clear to everybody in the region and there is nobody who is going to say that by virtue of an economic agreement, for instance, that we have with South Africa, the people of South Africa must stop struggling for their liberation, must stop struggling against colonial oppression. I don't mean anybody is going to say that, but I am saying that clearly the South African regime is demanding of everybody that everybody cooperate with it in the destruction of the ANC. Now inherent in that situation is, of course, aggression against the independent states — because they said so clearly them- selves: P.W. Botha said it in his New Year message that they have not yet used all the weapons and all the possibilities they have against the independent states of our region, and if the independent states of the region are stubborn, then they will use these weapons [words indistinct] situation [words indistinct].

If Botha wants the independent states to sign agreements that yes, indeed, we will expel the ANC, they will not get such agreement and therefore they will continue the process of aggression. We don't see such signs of reduced aggression. The South African Army is still occupying Angola, the South African Army is still continuing to occupy Namibia, to carry out atrocities against the Namibian people. The activities of the South African puppets like the MNR and UNITA, the NLA, those have not stopped. The groups that they trained in Zimbabwe haven't stopped.

War is going on, people are dying. The pressures on the independent states to expel the ANC have not been reduced and therefore we said that the objective situation in the region didn't seem to us to suggest that a conclusion that was reduced aggression from South Africa was correct.

It is not correct. There is continuing aggression, there is increasing aggression, there will be continuing aggression from the South African regime because, for instance, you will have seen the statement that President Kaunda made not long ago when he said correctly that the aim of the South African regime is to transform the countries, the independent countries of the region into client states. President Kaunda is perfectly correct. How are you going to transform these countries into client states? By continuing aggression, by compelling them to become client states. [end recording]

That was Comrade Tavo Mbeki, director of information of the African National Congress, talking on the aggressive policies of the fascist Pretoria regime and its so-called peace efforts. ... (supplying additional passage)

SWAZILAND

Appointment of Principal Secretaries Announced

MB231835 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The director of personnel and head of the Civil Service, Senator Shadrack Sibanyoni, has announced the appointment of principal secretaries as from 1 April. The appointments are as follows:

Dr Ephraim Vusani Dlamini becomes secretary to the cabinet and head of the Civil Service. Mr Kenneth Mbuli, who is currently ambassador for Swaziland in Brussels under the EEC, becomes principal secretary in the Ministry of Finance. Mr Absolom Vusi Mamba, who is presently high commissioner for Swaziland in Nairobi, East Africa, become principal secretary in the Ministry of Interior and Immigration. Mr Alpheos Raymond Shabangu, formerly principal secretary in the now defunct prime minister's office, becomes principal secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources, Land Utilization, and Energy. Mr Robert Fanawakhona Mdluli, who is presently under secretary in the Tinkhundla office, becomes principal secretary in the same office.

Asked by the press to comment especially on the position of the former principal secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Mr Robert Strydom, Mr Sibanyoni disclosed that Mr Strydom has resigned through ill health. He paid tribute to Mr Strydom, and described him as a rare genius and a man of integrity who built up the Customs and Excise Department to what it is today and fought for what was due to the Kingdom of Swaziland. He said the leaders of the nation are still looking to two more principal secretaries to be announced at a later date.

Queen Regent Releases 10 Political Detainees

MB231706 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] The queen mother and regent today released 10 political detainees at a ceremony held at Enkanini today. The queen mother's announcement was made by the ombudsman, Mr Robert Mabila, in the presence of members of the Supreme Council of State, Liqoqo; the prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi; the minister for justice, Mr David Matse; indvuna [governor] of the Tinkundla, Mfanawenkosi Maseko; and the governor of Lobamba Royal Residence, Mr Vusumuzi Bhembe. In her own words read by the ombudsman, Mr Robert Mabila, the queen regent said:

[Begin Mabila recording] Statement by Her Majesty the Indlovukazi and Queen Regent Ntombi, on the release of 10 political detainees from prison. Her Majesty the Indlovukazi and Queen Regent Ntombi, having carefully considered the report of the special commission of inquiry into the written and oral submissions of political detainees in Swaziland is pleased to make the following announcement:

I, Ntombi, the Indlovukazi of the Swazi nation and queen regent of Swaziland, have carefully considered the report on the submissions made by all political detainees to the special commission of inquiry. I am satisfied that certain detainees are sincere and genuine in their efforts to amend their ways, and in becoming useful and constructive members of our society. In the course of justice, peace, and good government, I, Ntombi, on the advice of the Liqoqo, am pleased to release the following persons from political detention with immediate effect:

1. Arthur Khoza,
2. Douglas Lukhele,
3. Prince Matatazela,
4. Princess Ncane,
5. Mrs Senanile Nkosi,
6. Thembi Lukhele,
7. Princess Buyisiwe,
8. Gilbert Dlebankomo Motsa,
9. Petros Phungwayo,
10. Samson Dlamini. [end recording]

Addressing the released persons, the prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, warned them not to involve themselves in any manner of politics against the state, and should at all times remember that they were released following several pleas to the throne, which, after having conducted inquiries, was satisfied that they are sincere and genuine in their ways and in becoming useful and constructive members of our society.

ZAMBIA

Further Reportage on Visit of Prince Charles

Visit to Copperbelt Province

MB231234 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 23 Mar 84

[Text] Prince Charles, heir to the British royal throne, arrived in Chingola this morning for a 4-hour visit. The prince, who arrived to an enthusiastic welcome, was met by the member of the Central Committee for the Copperbelt Province, Mr Alex Shapi; his political secretaries, Mr Pickson Chitambala and Mr Martin Mubanga; and members of the British community, accompanied by hundreds of Chingola residents. Later, the prince and his party, which included British High Commissioner to Zambia Mr John Johnson, and Zambian Minister of Agriculture and Water Development Mr Kingsley Chinkuli, drove to the Nchanga mine's general offices, to be received by the manager, Mr John Hodgson.

The prince is expected to visit, among other mine installations, the trailings leach plant, one of the largest in the world, the filter building, and the [word indistinct] crusher, as well as the open pit. Prince Charles, who flew from Lusaka to Chingola, was seen off by the praty secretary general, Mr Humphrey Mulemba. The prince expressed satisfaction at the successful implementation of the (?20) million kwacha (Kaleya) Smallholders' Company, managed by the Commonwealth Development Corporation in Mazabuka.

Tour of Livingstone Sites

MB240702 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] The visiting heir to the British throne, Prince Charles, is in Livingstone for a 2-day visit to the tourist capital. The prince was welcomed at Livingstone airport by Southern Province Member of the Central Committee Mungoni Liso and other senior party and government officials. A large crowd also included several British nationals resident in Livingstone, and some from Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls town. Prince Charles, who was accompanied by Minister of Agriculture and Water Development General Kingsley Chinkuli and British High Commissioner to Zambia John Johnson, later visited the museum. The also went to Victoria Falls, where he visited the knife-edge bridge, the eastern cataract, and the railway bridge. He leaves for Zimbabwe from Livingstone today.

Continued Development Aid Pledged

MB241207 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, last night commended Zambia for her development since independence. Prince Charles, who was speaking at a reception hosted for him by Southern Province Member of the Central Committee Mr Mungoni Liso at Mosi-Oa-Tunya Hotel, said he was humbled by the infrastructure he found in the country, adding that everything was quite amazing. The prince told a large crowd, which included British nationals resident in Livingstone, that Britain would continue helping Zambia in her development endeavors to improve her infrastructure.

He said he was very happy to be in Zambia, particularly Livingstone, to see the Victoria Falls, which is named after his great-great-grandmother, Victoria.

Earlier, Mr Liso said Zambia held the British royal family in high esteem, as evidenced by the warm reception accorded to Queen Elizabeth when she visited the country in 1979. Mr Liso said during the Commonwealth summit meeting held in Lusaka, the agenda was very explosive, but was defused by the presence of the queen.

Meanwhile, Prince Charles was given a rousing send-off at Livingstone airport, when he left for Zimbabwe, and a 19-gun salute. The party secretary general, Mr Humphrey Mulemba, Member of the Central Committee Liso, several British nationals, and other party and government leaders were at the airport to see the prince off.

TIMES Assails Botha Statement on UN 'Alternatives'

MB240742 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 24 Mar 84

[Text] In Lusaka, the *TIMES OF ZAMBIA* reports that the Pretoria regime has taken a step backwards by insisting on the Cuban withdrawal from Angola as a condition for Namibia's independence. The newspaper said the statement issued by the South African foreign minister, Pik Botha, yesterday that his government will be forced to find an alternative to UN independence proposals for Namibia if Cuban troops do not leave Angola causes concern.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Says Militia Training Near RSA To Accelerate

MB250708 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Comrade Robert Mugabe says the training of the peoples' militia in areas bordering racist South Africa will be speeded up so that Zimbabwe can defend itself against infiltrators from that country. Addressing youth, officials, and district executives in Masvingo yesterday, Comrade Mugabe said the people in those areas should be their own defenders. The prime minister said it is not enough to rely entirely on the country's army and police, both of which operate from different points and have other work to do. He said the youth are the custodians of the ZANU-PF party line and must always be prepared to defend the organization under all situations.

Comrade Mugabe also said the government is working on plans to create jobs in the rural areas so that people can earn an income in their areas without having to move to towns and cities. However, he said that the move by the government should not retard efforts by preferring these areas to embark on self-initiative income-generating service. [sentence as heard] He urged the people to form cooperatives, saying that this is the only way the government can provide for their needs.

On the discovery of mass graves, the prime minister said the government is not fully aware of the many places where freedom fighters killed during the liberation war had been buried.